



Studying form: on Royal Ascot's first day toppers are firmly in place, but a breeze forced the women to hang on to their hats. Report, page 2; Racing 31, 32

Power giant cuts jobs

National Power, the largest of the privatised electricity generating companies, said that a further 3,000 jobs would be cut this year, reducing the total workforce to 9,000, just over half the number employed at privatisation. At the same time the company announced pre-tax profits up by £80 million to £514 million in the year to end-March.

Norweb, one of the electricity distribution companies, also reported increased profits, almost doubled from £70 million to £138 million. The electricity regulator has already warned that he may act to limit power industry profits.

Leading article, page 15

Kinnock threat

Neil Kinnock has said that the Labour party might support a referendum on the Maastricht treaty, raising fresh doubts about the government's ability to enact legislation to ratify the pact.

Leading article, page 15

Maxwell fight

Neil Cooper, from Robson Rhodes, the liquidator of the Maxwell pensions, has warned banks that "the gloves are off" in his fight to retrieve more than £450 million in missing funds.

Parliament, page 8

Problem solver

John Major has plans to create a new Whitehall agency with sweeping powers to take over the running of schools and sack incompetent staff.

Page 5

Arms charges

Casper Weinberger, the former American defence secretary, is facing indictment on criminal charges arising out of the Iran-Contra arms scandal, according to his lawyer.

Page 13

Bush agrees big new arms cuts with Yeltsin

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and President Yeltsin announced an arms control deal yesterday that will drastically reduce each side's strategic nuclear arsenals.

Mr Bush said the two leaders had agreed to eliminate all heavy Russian and American intercontinental ballistic missiles and all other multiple-warhead ballistic missiles. The cuts would be achieved in two phases by 2003 at the latest.

The overall ceiling for each side's nuclear warheads would be cut to between 3,000 and 3,500, half the level of last year's Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Mr Bush said the agreement, reached after the opening sessions of the first official summit between the two leaders, represented "remarkable

steps" and with them "the nuclear nightmare recedes more and more for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren".

The administration had been demanding the elimination of all its land-based, multiple-warhead strategic missiles, the backbone of its nuclear force, without making reciprocal cuts in its own submarine-launched missiles. In a television interview before the summit opened Mr Bush acknowledged that too lopsided an agreement could provoke a military backlash against Mr Yeltsin. However, he argued that since America was now the world's only superpower and it was friends with Russia, nuclear parity was no longer essential.

The first day of the summit was, however, dominated by

Mr Yeltsin's admission that American prisoners from the Vietnam war were transferred to Soviet labour camps and some could still be alive. In an interview with NBC television, Mr Yeltsin said "our archives have shown it is true some of them were transferred to the territory of the former USSR and were kept in labour camps".

A spokesman for the Bush administration said that Mr Yeltsin's statement about POWs was an "astonishing revelation" and added that there had been no previous inkling of such imprisonment. A spokesman for the Vietnamese foreign ministry in Hanoi denied, however, that any such transfers had taken place.

The Russian president also acknowledged on the eve of the summit that a deadly

anthrax epidemic in the Ural mountains in 1979 was caused by germ warfare experiments, as the Americans had claimed, not natural causes as the Soviet authorities had insisted.

Mr Yeltsin was welcomed by Mr Bush as a Peter the Great-style leader of a "great experiment", who was redefining Russia's understanding of itself and its role in the world. "Today marks the beginning of a new era, a new kind of summit, not a meeting between two powers struggling for global supremacy, but between two partners striving to build a democratic peace," Mr Bush said.

The summit is also remarkable for other reasons. Mr Yeltsin is reaching out to America like none of his predecessors ever did and he is doing his utmost to win its trust and spread goodwill. The man once smeared by the White House as given the grandest of South Lawn welcoming ceremonies as Russia's first democratically-elected president.

Declaring that this "Russian revolution, like our American revolution, simply must succeed", Mr Bush demanded that Congress approve the multi-billion dollar aid package for the former Soviet republics that he announced on April 1. The fate of the former Soviet republics were the most important foreign policy issue of the age, he said. The Bush administration has also begun pressing the International Monetary Fund to compromise on the terms of the economic reform plan, which must be agreed before Moscow can receive a \$24 billion (£12.9 billion) Western aid package and World Bank loans.

Reform ally, page 13
Leading article, page 15

Riverside opera planned for millennium

BY DEBRA CRANE

A PROPOSAL to build a new national opera house as part of the South Bank arts centre in London is being considered by the government.

The new theatre, seating approximately 2,000 people and costing upwards of £100 million to build, would be used to house both the Royal Opera, now resident at Covent Garden, and the English National Opera, which recently purchased the Coliseum.

The proposal is said to come from the office of David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, whose department has responsibility for the arts. Mr Mellor, who yesterday declined to comment on the proposal, is believed to want the opera house to be operational by the year 2000 to mark the millennium.

The opera house could be built on the Jubilee Gardens site, adjacent to the Royal Festival Hall on the bank of the Thames. There have been proposals in the past to include a large lyric theatre in the South Bank complex, even going back to the original Festival of Britain plans.

Continued on page 18, col 4

Fans banned from beer tent

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN STOCKHOLM

THE Swedes yesterday barred England supporters from the cheap beer tents which have been a focal point for violence during the European football championship, and deployed hundreds of police to prevent any more hooliganism.

On the eve of Sweden's match against England the Football Association was hoping that the move would end the trouble which has led to 122 arrests in three days and endangered the participation of both the national team and clubs in future European competitions.

The British government and the FA have campaigned against providing these tents for the estimated 4,000 English supporters here, and after

three nights of violence in Malmö and Stockholm the owners finally agreed. Anders Carlberg, the principal organiser, said: "We have been forced to close the doors on the English after the fighting because we cannot differentiate between good and bad Englishmen." In the brawl here early yesterday between Swedish skinheads and the English, seven people were arrested and two men received hospital treatment.

Mr Carlberg said the private security guards would screen the supporters with the police only intervening if there were trouble. The Stockholm officers have denied that they put any pressure on the owners and some would have preferred to have all the

England followers in one place rather than scattered throughout the city.

The behaviour of a small minority of English fans has revived fears that English clubs will be suspended from European competitions. Malcolm George, the assistant chief constable of Manchester, who is advising the Swedish police here, said that England's participation in future tournaments was "hanging by a thread".

John Major yesterday told the Commons that the lawlessness of English soccer hooligans has "sullied our reputation abroad".

Fan reminded, page 3
Letters, page 15
Cup preview, page 34

Forget the fascists — what about our crèches?

BY JOE JOSEPH



Sitting-in: a student on guard yesterday

STUDENTS have always guarded the nation's conscience, exerting their prerogative of responsibility without power, fighting for what we all believe in but are too busy being capitalists to rage about: fascism. Third World poverty, racism, crèche facilities.

Wait a second, crèche facilities? And what's this here: not enough computers for typing essays? What happened to Vietnam? Where is the spirit of 1968? Does nobody pick coffee beans in Nicaragua any more?

More crèches are a big thing with the students at Oxford Polytechnic. They are among tea long-standing and unfilled demands to the poly's governors that prompted 60 students at the end of their tether to take over one of the campus buildings last Thursday and to occupy it for the past week. About 300 more students gathered at the front

door daily to show support. This is the longest sit-in the poly has seen, twice as long as the three-day occupation held in 1972. That was to protest about Vietnam. Now they want more crèche facilities. And more computer terminals too. And better food.

"Tony Benn pledges his full support," yelled a voice through a loudspeaker poking out of an occupied second floor window. "Tony was supposed to come here to speak today, but he had a dental appointment." Even dentistry now takes precedence over demos.

Inside the occupied Gibbs Building there is the blend of sleeping bags, stained coffee cups and brimming ashtrays that you still find in many newsrooms but which have become less common sights on campuses since student power lost much of its voltage.

Many of the lecturers privately support their students' demands for smaller teaching classes. And access to

libraries and childcare are vital for many. But when did crèches and computers become louder rallying cries than, say, Rio or Yugoslavia? Even quite a few of the 10,000 other students at the poly are angry about the disruption. There are finals going on," says one student. "We all have enough tension without having to run around to find out where our relocated exam rooms are."

In the occupied Gibbs building, Geoffrey Maguire, a law postgraduate student and sit-in ringleader, barked at talk that students might be going soft. "These are hardcore activists you see here. We've demonstrated about the poll tax, about the Gulf War. But this one affects all of us."

Yesterday afternoon the occupying force agreed to vacate the building today after the poly's directors agreed to discuss their demands next week. So was it all a success? "Without a doubt," says Maguire.

Lamont abolishes Neddy forum

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE National Economic Development Council, Britain's only forum for economic discussion between ministers, trade unions and industry, is to be wound up, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said yesterday, after years of Treasury scepticism about its worth.

Norman Lamont told the Commons that the body, set up under Harold Macmillan in 1962 and familiarly known as "Neddy", would go because the era of corporatism in Britain had long passed. Much of its work will be absorbed by government departments, with Michael Heseltine's trade and industry department taking the lead.

The decision was regarded by Tory MPs last night as a compromise between the positions taken by the Treasury, which has long viewed the NEDC as a talking-shop that has outlived its usefulness, and the more interventionist line of Mr Heseltine, president of the board of trade.

Mr Heseltine has argued for years that the holder of his post should chair the NEDC. By last night, it was clear that his department would be taking over the main responsibility for relations between the government and industry. He is expected to spell out plans before the summer, but clearly faces a battle for cash from the Treasury.

Mr Heseltine is to set up sectoral groups within the trade department to take on many of Neddy's responsibilities, but there will be no formal place for the unions.

The decision was condemned by Labour and many trade union leaders. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, accused the government of industrial vandalism. He said that, in a recession, "all this wretched government can do is abolish the only forum which brings together industry, finance and unions to discuss solutions".

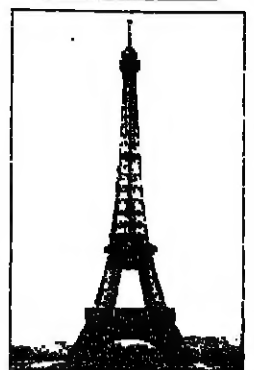
Referring to Mr Heseltine's view about the chairmanship of Neddy, Mr Smith said: "Just as Mr Heseltine was about to claim the seat, the chancellor has whipped the chair away".

Alan Jinkinson, general secretary of the local government union Naigo, said the one forum in which unions, employers and ministers

Continued on page 18, col 5

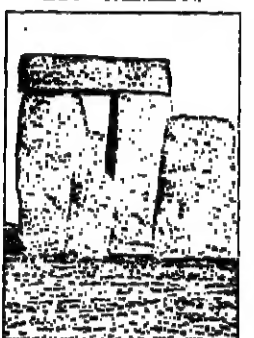
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A NEW AGE OF FAITH



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Scientists delve into deep secret of Loch Ness

If Nessie exists, she is bound to be disturbed by the latest intrusion into her domain, Kerry Gill reports

SCIENTISTS who are to begin mapping the depths of Loch Ness next month will inevitably drag up a question which seems certain to remain unanswered long after they have packed up and gone home: is there, or is there not, a Jurassic beastie lurking in the stretch of inland water with the greatest mean depth in Britain?

Project Urquhart, named after a castle on the northwest bank of the loch, is of worthy scientific interest and ostensibly not concerned with monsters. Behind it is a consortium including the Natural History Museum and the Freshwater Biological Association. It has the backing of the National Museums of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Society for Underwater Technology.

Professor Gwynn Jones, director of the FBA, and the project's scientific director, said: "The exploration of Loch Ness is potentially one of the most exciting such studies to be undertaken in



Wishful sighting: a 1930s postcard places Nessie in the lee of Urquhart Castle, namesake of the latest scientific foray into the loch

Britain in recent years." The scientists notably made no reference to the monster. However, Professor Colin Curds, keeper of zoology at the Natural History Museum, said hopefully: "It is

highly likely that species new to science will be discovered in Loch Ness."

The exact depth of Loch Ness has always been unclear. The Guinness Book of Records says that the loch has

the greatest mean depth in Britain, 427ft, but maps are based on soundings taken in 1903 by Sir John Murray, which recorded a maximum of 754ft. More than 20 years ago the Pisces submersible

was reported to have descended to 820ft and to have obtained a sounding of 975ft. The MV Simrad, a 150-ton vessel equipped with the most modern sonar equipment, will arrive at Loch Ness on

July 5. Its techniques will contrast with the 1903 expedition, which relied on nothing more advanced than a rowing boat and a lead weight attached to piano wire.

Power companies' profits condemned

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's privatisation of the electricity supply industry came in for fresh criticism last night as Labour and Liberal Democrats denounced the massive profits from two power companies as an insult and immoral.

National Power's announcement of an 18 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £514 million was singled out by the opposition parties, as it coincided with the cutting of a further 2,400 jobs by the company. National Power had already cut more than 3,000 jobs in the year up to March 31, trimming the workforce to 11,400.

Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, said: "The whole thing has become a racket. National Power's record profits come on top of record profits scooped up by PowerGen and the National Grid Company. Today's figures show the profits have trebled over the last five years while inflation has gone up by only one-third. All this makes a mockery of government claims that this privatised industry is properly regulated."

He also criticised the profits made by Norweb of £137.9 million before tax in 1991-2.

Profits in 1990-1 were £70.3 million.

Mr Dobson said: "It beggars belief that Norweb's profits have effectively doubled. This electricity monopoly has been coining it while the rest of the North-West has suffered. Over the period they grabbed these unbelievable and unacceptable and record profits, 45,000 people in the North-West lost their jobs, 3,700 companies that were not monopolies went broke, and 7,300 families faced repossession orders on their homes."

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat energy spokesman, described the profits of the two companies as "immoral", as they coincided with the loss of thousands of jobs. He also criticised the industry's regulator, Stephen Littlechild, for not going far enough in ordering prices to be cut.

Eddie Newall, national energy officer of the GMB general union, said: "The story of privatisation so far is one of thousands of job losses and prices soaring through the roof. Out of all this has come nothing for the consumer."

National Power rejected the criticisms, saying the

company had spent £500 million on capital investment last year with £300 million of the money spent on improving the environment. The chairman of Norweb, Ken Harvey, said his company's results showed high-quality customer service and profits "can and must go hand in hand".

PowerGen recently announced a 32 per cent rise in profits and yesterday Nottingham-based East Midlands Electricity was first in a queue of 14 privatised regional distribution companies in England and Wales to announce profit figures. Pre-tax, they rose 41 per cent to £150 million from £106.5 million in the year to March 31.

The National Consumer Council said last night that new price controls on the power industry were urgently needed. "Consumers will expect swift action. They will not want to wait years for a better deal," Robin Simpson, the council's head of policy, said. "The whole formula governing electricity prices to domestic customers urgently needs revision. There is something very wrong with it."

Leading article, page 15

Racegoers cheer princess at Ascot

BY JOHN YOUNG

A LOUD cheer from racegoers in the Royal Enclosure greeted the Princess of Wales when she arrived yesterday for the first day of Royal Ascot. High society was clearly happy to be given the chance to express its support and affection for the princess, who seemed relaxed and delighted by the warmth of her reception.

The royal party drove down the course with the princess accompanied by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in the second carriage, preceded by the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Kent.

The annual gathering of the well-heeled and well-bred was at its garden party best, with plenty of sunshine and a breeze to temper the humidity. There were lots of pretty frocks and a few frumpy ones, and among the men signs that grey morning coats might be giving way to the black species.

There were reminders, however, that recession is still with us. The crowds and traffic were thinner and there was less ostentatious eating, drinking and popping of champagne corks. Even the hats and dresses were more sober.

The Queen visited the parade ring before the day's big race, the St James's Palace Stakes. Disappointingly, the expected showdown between Rodrigo de Triano, winner of the English and Irish 2,000 Guineas, and the highly fancied French colt Azadi, never happened. They came in fourth and fifth behind the Irish challenger Brief Truce.

Photograph, page 1

IRA uses Ulster tactic in London

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO Irishmen who hijacked a minicab and blew it up close to Piccadilly Circus told their driver they were members of the IRA and ordered him at gunpoint to follow orders. Minutes later they stole the car keys, leaving the driver to get clear and try to raise the alarm before the blast.

As detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch interviewed the driver, who has not been named, yesterday, other officers sifted through the debris of the blast in St Alban's Street, which runs between the Haymarket and Lower Regent Street. The bronze Mercedes car was ripped apart and the roof was blown into the air.

The bomb, weighing two to three pounds, is the third in central London in the past ten days. Police said there was no doubt it was the work of the IRA.

The explosion is one of the most daring attacks by an active service unit because the bombers took the risk of being seen. It borrows from the tactic of proxy bombing widely used in Northern Ireland. The bombers do not seem to have had a specific target but once again varied their tactics.

The problem for police is whether the bombers will content themselves with a small explosion, perhaps designed to show they are still

active or whether the bombing was a practice for something larger.

The bombers, both in their 20s and wearing dark coloured baseball caps and dark glasses, walked into a minicab office in the Holloway Road, Islington, on Monday at about 10.30pm and asked for a car to take them to the West End.

According to police, the two men were being driven along Shaftesbury Avenue half an hour later when one of them, sitting next to the driver, produced a handgun and told the man they were members of the IRA. He was told he would not get hurt if he did as he was told.

The car was driven around Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square and St James's. The driver was ordered to stop at one point and one of the men rummaged with two rucksacks. It is likely he was setting a short timer running on the device.

The car started again and then stopped in St Alban's Street. The two men took the car keys, left the rucksacks in the footwell of the front passenger seat and ran off after telling the driver a bomb would explode in 15 minutes. The driver found two police officers in the Haymarket and the bomb exploded as they were hurrying back to the car.



London attack: the remains of the wrecked minicab after the blast in the West End

Joyce has the last word: Yes

AT DAVY Byrne's pub off Grafton Street in the heart of Dublin the debate was in full swing. Which way would James Joyce have voted on the Maastricht treaty?

Yesterday was Bloomsday, the annual celebration of Leopold Bloom's journey through Dublin in *Ulysses*. It was in Davy Byrne's pub that Bloom, repelled by the sight of diners slurping and masticating at the nearby Burton, stopped for his cheese sandwich and a glass of wine on June 16, 1904.

Most of the Joyceans, paying a little more for their lunch than the 7d it cost Bloom, seemed convinced their hero would have had no hesitation in voting yes in tomorrow's referendum. After all, Joyce was a man who chose to spend almost his entire adult life in European capitals in exile, albeit reluctantly, from a country that he found stiflingly insular and conservative.

Larry Nugent, a smart Dublin shipping executive who has enjoyed the Bloomsday literary pub crawl for more than 20 years, argued that Joyce saw the Ireland of his day as a "village pump" society, in thrall to the Roman Catholic Church, which could only benefit

reigny involved in Maastricht," he said. "I think he would have felt that holding onto control within the country would help to reinforce the Irish character." According to Ms Balfie, Joyce only went away so that he could observe Dublin all the better.

Bruce Arnold, the leading Joyce expert and literary editor of the *Irish Independent*, delivered a paper to a similar effect yesterday morning. People were forgetting, he said, one of the main ingredients of Joyce's character: his rebelliousness. It was precisely because he would have been told to vote yes by those in authority that he would have done the opposite. "He was a rebel against all convention, all authority and all conformity. He would have undoubtedly voted no."

The yes campaign, however, may have a literary trick up its sleeve. Is the end of the last sentence of *Ulysses* really just Molly Bloom fantasising about Leopold and men in general or something else entirely? "...I put my arms around him yes," she muses, "and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will Yes."

In her view, Joyce was a reluctant European. "I don't think he would have liked the dilution of our essential sov-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appeal court plugs computer loophole

An employee who tampers directly with a company computer for gain or malice is breaking the law and can be charged under the new computer crime laws, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. The judges, headed by Lord Justice Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, overturned a ruling which had thrown into doubt a key section of recent legislation aimed at cracking down on computer crime.

Judge Aglionby, sitting at Snaresbrook Crown Court last July, acquitted a man who had been charged under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. The accused, a warehouseman-salesman, had allegedly tampered with a company computer to give himself a discount on the purchase of a key-cutting machine.

He had been charged under section 2 of the Act, which covers unauthorised access with intent to commit false accounting. The defence argued successfully that section 1(a) of the Act meant two computers were needed to commit the crime of hacking.

Lord Taylor said yesterday that in overturning this ruling the appeal judges were plugging what might have been a "surprising and unlikely" gap in the legislation. He said if the lower court's ruling had been allowed to stand, unauthorised access to confidential and security material held on computer could be made with impunity by anyone with direct access to an "in-house" computer.

MPs lobby Germans over fighter aircraft

A delayed production plan for the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) has been drawn up to try to keep Germany in the formation project. Details of the scheme were explained to Bundestag members in Bonn yesterday by an all-party group of British MPs who came to lobby hard in favour of the aircraft. Keith Mann, Conservative MP for Wyre, said that deliveries to Germany could be postponed until the end of the century to keep down costs.

Signs are emerging that the German government is looking for ways of staying in the project even though Volker Rühle, the defence minister, has recommended cancelling it on the grounds that the aircraft is too expensive and inappropriate for the post Cold War era. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence minister, has been trying to persuade Herr Rühle to change his mind. Next Tuesday Bundestag members are to decide whether Germany will buy the EFA.

Sellafield rally banned

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd yesterday won a High Court injunction banning Greenpeace from holding a mass demonstration, which had been expected to attract the leading rock band U2 and 15,000 people, outside its Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria next weekend. Mr Justice May said that BNFL, whose court action was supported by tenants of land adjoining the site, was entitled to withdraw its permission for the event, which had been granted last February on the basis that several hundred people only would attend. If the rally was not stopped, trespass and obstruction of the highway were very likely to occur, the judge said. The demonstration was to be held in protest at the scheduled opening of a second reprocessing plant at Sellafield.

Car price cut ruled out

Motor manufacturers told Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, that they would refuse to cut the price of their cars in spite of the threat of a new enquiry into allegations of overcharging British consumers. The heads of Britain's four biggest car companies - Rover, Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot Talbot - told Mr Heseltine that they could not afford to cut prices. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded that the industry was not guilty of accusations of profiteering. However, an enquiry for Sir Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner, decided that prices could be as much as 40 per cent higher in Britain than in the cheapest European Community nation. As a result, Mr Heseltine was ready to ask the Office of Fair Trading to reopen the investigation into pricing policies but the manufacturers oppose such a move.

Queen backs college

The Queen has sent Paul McCartney a personal cheque to help his plans to found a "Fame" school for the performing arts in Liverpool. The cheque, for an undisclosed sum, turned up in the former Beatle's post without warning, accompanied by a letter in which the Queen commended his efforts. She told Mr McCartney that his scheme for his old grammar school, the Liverpool Institute, was a "most worthy objective" and wished him "every possible success in your great endeavours". The singer-songwriter said yesterday: "This is terrific news. It is a fabulous boost for the school - and for Liverpool." Mr McCartney is seeking £13 million to establish an international college for 2,500 full-time and part-time students, which is due to open in 1995. He has made a donation believed to exceed £1 million.

Falklands post

David Tatham, the ambassador to Lebanon since 1990, has been appointed as the next governor of the Falkland Islands. Before being appointed ambassador he was head of the Foreign Office's Falkland Islands department. He will take over in August.

CORRECTION

"No man has a right to fix the boundary of the march of a nation" was said by Charles Stewart Parnell and not Daniel O'Connell, as stated in Life and Times. ("Yes or no to the Irish question?" June 15th). Kilkeny is the site of the stronghold of the Earls of Ormonde, not Osmonde.

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Coroner calls for enquiry into baby death delay

By Peter Victor

A CORONER called yesterday for an investigation into a delay of nearly 45 minutes between an emergency call for a midwife and her arrival at the home of a young husband who had just delivered his child in a bathroom with the aid of a clothes peg and a kitchen knife.

Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark coroner, said at the inquest into the child's death that there should be a clear set of guidelines for ambulance men dealing with births. He described the present operations instruction leaflet as "woefully inadequate and vague".

He recorded a verdict of accidental death on Chanel Louise Neenan, who died at the home in Rotherhithe, southeast London, early on March 15. She was delivered by her father, Richard, 25, as his wife Cathy, 23, sat on the lavatory in their flat. He used

a knife to cut the cord and the peg to clamp it, the inquest was told.

Rabi Fernando, a pathologist, said that Chanel had died from asphyxia caused by a blockage of her air passages with mucus. She was found to be dead on arrival at Guy's Hospital, less than five minutes' drive from the Neenans' home. Jane Deal, senior registrar in paediatrics at the hospital, told the inquest that the death had been "preventable" and the girl would not have died if the secretions had been cleared.

During the two-day inquest, Sir Montague was particularly critical of the instruction leaflet issued to ambulance men and the delay between their call for a midwife at 2.10am and her attendance at 2.55am. The midwife took less than fifteen seconds to diagnose that the baby was severely asphyxiated. Sir Montague said criticisms could be made of the ambulance men's lack of judgment as they waited in the Neenans' flat for the midwife, but they could not be accused of lack of care.

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, who has supported the Neenan family since the child's death, said after the hearing that he would try to see the health secretary to demand an enquiry into the running of the London Ambulance Service, the results of which must be made public.

He said: "Baby Chanel's death was an appalling and unnecessary tragedy. The inquest has revealed the truth. Something was terribly wrong in the organisation of the London Ambulance Service in March of this year and, for all I know, it still is."

"The result of a series of errors was that a baby, on all the evidence healthy when born, died within two hours even though she was never more than a mile away from a hospital and professionals who could have made sure she lived."

After the inquest, Mr Neenan said: "We are relieved it is all over and we just hope nothing like this ever happens to anyone else." The Neenans refused to comment on the possibility of any further action until they had consulted their solicitor.

London ambulance response times to emergency calls last year were the worst on record. In December 1991, only half the calls were attended within the time limit set down by the health department. From April to December, two-thirds of emergency cases were reached within 14 minutes. The figure fell to 56 per cent in December because of an increased workload and bad weather.

No comment was available from the ambulance service yesterday.

Dinner ladies win pay battle

By Matthew D'Ancona
Education Reporter

A LEEDS industrial tribunal yesterday granted a claim made by dinner ladies from schools across North Yorkshire for equal pay and conditions.

Women from 319 schools took North Yorkshire County Council to court last month after competitive tendering of the school meals service had forced them to accept pay cuts and shorter holidays.

Hourly rates were reduced from £3.31 to £3, following the successful in-house bid, but will be restored to their original level and back-dated as a consequence of the ruling, which is expected to cost the council up to £500,000.

Dorothy Radcliffe, 51, a catering assistant at Malton Secondary School and one of three women to appear at the tribunal, said: "We lost a lot and if we can get back to what we had before it would be great. We have been short-staffed and working like pigs for nothing."

Ray Gray, North Yorkshire area officer for the National Union of Public Employees, said that the ruling had major implications for the equality of men and women's pay. "There is very strong European legislation for claims of equal value. And the price of equality cannot be being made redundant. If they do then we will fight it."

The council said yesterday that it may be unable to meet the terms imposed by the ruling and therefore be compelled to re-tender the contract.

Sotheby's chief to sell 8m shares

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Salerom Correspondent

ALFRED Taubman, American owner of Sotheby's, who once said that selling art was as easy as selling beer, may be planning to pull out of the business. The Detroit billionaire is offering 8 million of his 22 million shares in the world's oldest auction house, hoping to raise some \$800 million (£55 million).

Mr Taubman has told staff in a letter that his "confidence and commitment" in the company "have never been greater", but the move is seen as a blow to a market whose fortunes have plummeted.

In his letter, Mr Taubman says that he is "seeking liquidity" by selling.

Some art dealers, however, believe that Mr Taubman is now using Sotheby's as a ready asset. They say that his short-term approach was responsible for fuelling the art market boom to unhealthy heights in the 1980s, and therefore for its subsequent collapse.

As further evidence of his tough business approach, they point out that whoever buys the shares will have little voting power. Mr Taubman has restructured the company so that, although he will end up with 28 per cent of the shares, he will retain 60 per cent of voting rights.

Mr Taubman paid £87.2 million for Sotheby's in 1983 and was hailed as a white knight saving it from being bought by the felt manufacturers Marshall Cogan and Stephen Swid.



Taubman: out to raise \$55 million from shares



Final run: Hoverspeed stewardesses heading for dry land yesterday after helping 400 passengers to make the last trip to Goodwin Sands, 10 miles off the Kent Coast, which are only uncovered once a year. The Hover Museum and the Goodwin Sands Potholing Society have chartered a hovercraft each year for a visit, but now Hoverspeed is selling its last five craft for £2 million each

Fan remanded in Sweden

A BRITISH fan accused of rioting during the European soccer championships was remanded in custody by a Swedish court yesterday after the district prosecutor said that he and a Norwegian had led an orgy of destruction in Malmö on Sunday morning.

Neil Goodwin, 23, from Letchworth, Hertfordshire, and Kristian Wierny, 22, from Larvik in Norway, will be tried in Malmö district court within two weeks. Peter Tjader, for the prosecution, told the court at Malmö police station that plainclothes police had identified the two men as ringleaders of a riot involving up to 200 English supporters.

Police said earlier that Mr Goodwin and Wierny had instigated the riot by climbing on a beer tent in Malmö's Stortorget Square and then descending to lead a mob in what they called a pre-planned riot. The prosecutor said police saw Mr Goodwin running in front of other rioters, trying to attack two police-dog handlers.

Mr Goodwin denied the charges, which carry a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment, and said he had not met Wierny before but admitted he had ignored a police request to come down from the roof of the beer tent.

Mr Goodwin, a self-employed pipefitter, has a previous history of violence. He was sentenced at St Albans crown court in 1989 to nine months in prison after admitting causing grievous bodily harm to an army sergeant and his brother. He was a member of a gang that handed out a savage beating because their victims, Ian and Michael Roberts, were not regular faces in their local pub, the court was told.

On Sunday Mr Goodwin was arrested on his way into the England v France game after Swedish police recognised him from television pictures of Saturday night's riots. Mr Goodwin, a Chelsea fan who lives with his girlfriend Patricia O'Neill and eight-month-old son Dale in Royston, Hertfordshire, travelled to the European championships with friends last Tuesday on a privately arranged trip.

His younger brother Phil, 22, a forklift-truck driver from Jackmans Place, Letchworth, said: "We are all shocked at the news - if it is true. We have heard nothing yet from anyone. My brother is a quiet bloke and he's not

the sort to act as a ringleader. He likes football. He likes a drink but he is not a yobbo. Since the birth of his baby he has calmed down a lot largely thanks to his girlfriend. That's why I can't believe this is supposed to have happened."

Mr Goodwin's girlfriend, Patricia O'Neill, 19, said: "You couldn't meet a gentler, more loving man. He is a wonderful father to our son. That's why I can't believe what has happened."

Videos were shown to the court of Mr Goodwin and Wierny, believed to be a neo-Nazi, on the roof of the beer tent, jumping to the ground and then allegedly leading the attack on the police. Mr Goodwin said that the police were responsible.

"If they had not come in with the dogs the evening would have fizzled out. I'm getting blamed for everyone with a short hair-cut and a blue T-shirt," he told the court.

Both men were remanded until June 26 and another England follower, Paul Clark from Hartlepool, who is charged with assaulting a policeman, was remanded until June 23. Ten known trouble-makers were deported from Sweden yesterday. They were held on a train and flown back to Luton.

European football, pages 30, 34

GP told to leave shared surgery

ROBERT Jones, the Essex family doctor whose wife was murdered nine years ago, was ordered out of his surgery by a High Court judge yesterday after a dispute with his partner.

Mr Justice Hoffmann granted an injunction excluding Dr Jones from the surgery in Coggeshall that he shares with Elizabeth Bevan. The two, who have been in partnership for more than 11 years, have not spoken to each other for months.

In March Dr Jones was ordered to be suspended for eight months by the General Medical Council for serious professional misconduct. He is entitled to continue in practice pending the outcome of his appeal to the Privy Council, which is unlikely to be heard before October.

Dr Bevan, 41, of Coggeshall, gave Dr Jones written notice in May dissolving the partnership after complaints from patients. She said that they had not spoken since. Dr Jones, 50, of Stanway, near Colchester, contested her application for immediate injunctions banning him from entering the surgery or drawing money from the practice. The injunctions granted yesterday will remain until the dispute over whether Dr Bevan is entitled to end the partnership and buy out Dr Jones's share has been decided by the courts or by arbitration.

Tim Harry, for Dr Bevan, had told the court that Dr Jones's suspension was one of a series of incidents which led her to want to end the partnership. She did not want to stop Dr Jones earning a living, he said.

Nine years ago, Dr Jones was questioned by police investigating the murder of his third wife, Diane, after her battered body was found in woodland. The murder remains unsolved.

Dr Jones, who was in court with his fourth wife, Lorna, said later that he was shocked at the judge's ruling. He did not know what his future plans would be.



Jones: had not spoken to partner for months

Prison for lorry man who killed six on M42

A LORRY driver who hit a line of stationary traffic on a motorway, killing six people, was jailed for three years and banned from driving for ten years by Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Vincent Parsons, 26, had been found guilty of causing their deaths by reckless driving. Mr Justice Simon Brown said that Parsons was a menace to other road-users and that his driving had caused death and destruction, grievous heartache and loss for many families.

The consequences of what Parsons had done were so appalling, the judge said, that they prompted initial instincts of simple revenge. The jury had found him criminally responsible for the accident, on the M42 18 months ago, when he took his heavily laden lorry and drove recklessly, killing six people.

However the judge accepted that Parsons was remorseful and that his recklessness had consisted of a failure to consider or recognise the risks involved, rather than conscious risk-taking.

After Parsons of Claremont, Newport, Gwent, had been found guilty of causing death by reckless driving, the court was told that he had, in the past three years, appeared before courts on four occasions, twice for offences of driving without due care.

Earlier the jury had been told that the crash had happened on November 6, 1990, when Parsons was driving his articulated lorry, laden with 20 tons of steel bars, north towards junction 6 of the M42, near Birmingham.

Roadworks on the exit slip-road had caused a tailback of several hundred yards in the nearby lane. Parsons had had a clear view of about 700 yards to the last vehicle in the queue, which displayed hazard warning lights. However his foot had never left the accelerator and he had continued at 65mph straight into the rear of the queue.

The court was told that several of the 11 vehicles in the pile-up had been engulfed in flames. As well as the six who died, several other people had been seriously injured.

The prosecution had claimed that one possible reason for the accident was that Parsons had been tired and had either fallen asleep or had a lapse of concentration. He had either deliberately taken his attention away from the road or had driven when he knew he was sleepy, creating an obvious risk, the prosecution said.

Parsons had denied feeling drowsy and said that he had no recollection of seeing stationary traffic. He told the court he could remember little of the accident and wept when he said he had since been unable to sleep properly.

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Worshippers urged to give church more cash

By RUTH GLEDHILL and LOUISE HIDALGO

THE Church of England's financial difficulties could be solved and the effect of the recession on clergy salaries countered if church-goers put an extra 30p each in the collection box, the Church Commissioners, the body responsible for much of clergy pay and housing and all of pensions, said yesterday.

Unveiling its annual report, Sir Douglas Lovelock, first church estates commissioner, gave a warning of annual reductions of £5 million a year over the next three years in the commissioners' contribution to paying and housing clergy. He urged churchgoers to make up the shortfall by increasing their average weekly giving from £3 to £3.30, "the price of a good meal of fish and chips".

The recession, longer and

deeper than expected, had meant that the commissioners' investment income, largely property-based, had failed to match the rise in pension burden and the need to help clergy pay to keep pace with inflation. Pensions were to cost an extra £5 million annually. The commissioners had no choice but to raise that much less in stipends.

"People got used to what I call the fat years of the 1980s," Sir Douglas said. "Now, there has to be an adjustment, and certainly for a year or two our income is going to be flat."

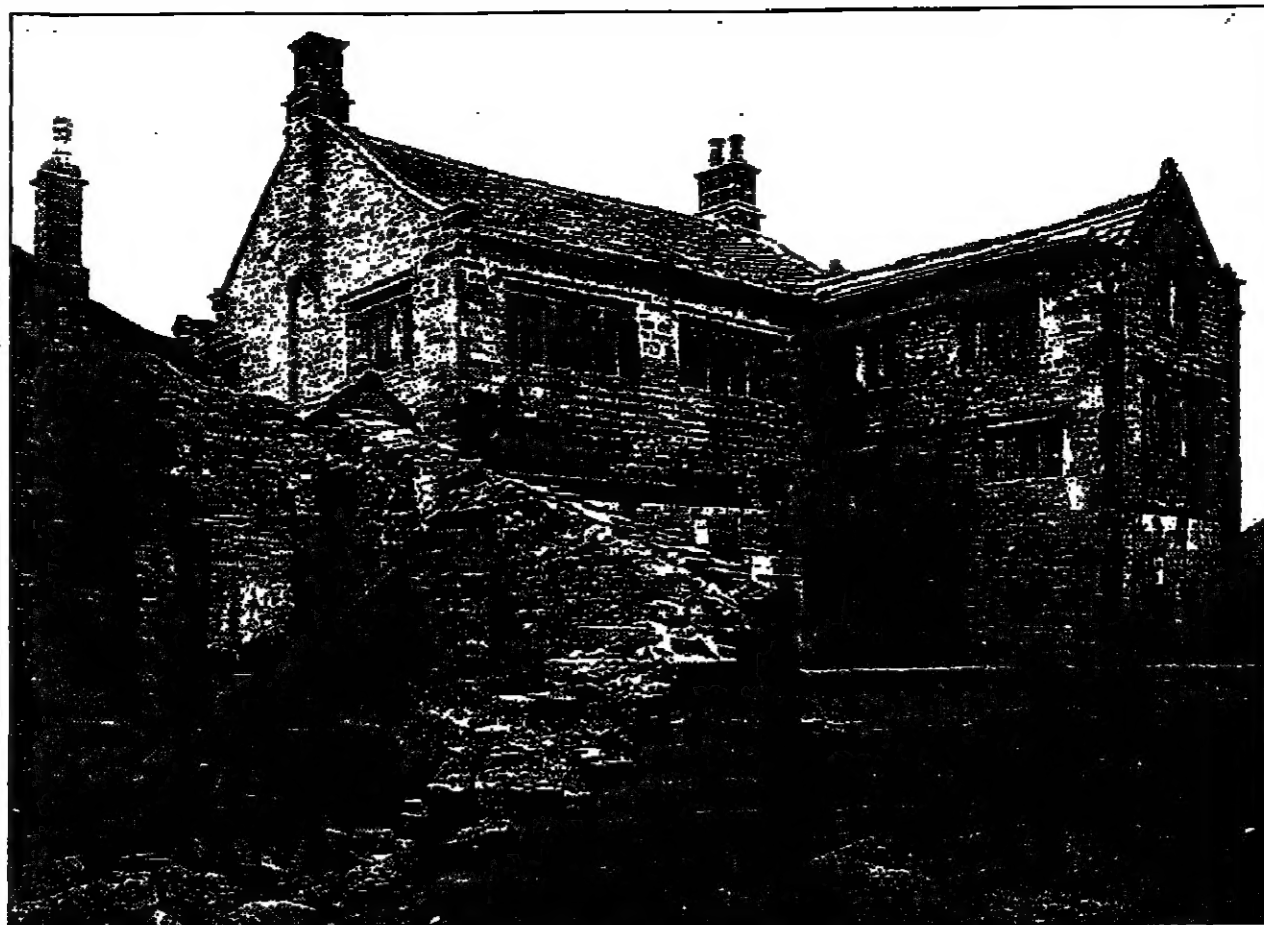
The extra burden of maintaining clergy pay at its current level is to be met by parishes and dioceses. They now have to meet more than half the average £12,830 stipend and most of further pay increases in line with inflation. Most dioceses are themselves suffering a fall in investment income because of the recession, and some have announced cuts in clergy.

"This is a great challenge to giving," Sir Douglas said. "We know many parishioners have their own problems and are facing redundancy or are in danger of having their houses repossessed. But most of them are not, and we must put the question to them: what is a worthy response to the value and meaning the church gives to you?"

Churchgoers should heed the church's call last year to give at least 5 per cent of their annual income to the church. The current average weekly gift of £3 by the 1.16 million people who attend church regularly equalled about 3 per cent of net income.

The commissioners' investment income rose by 1 per cent, to £167 million, last year, below an average inflation rate of 5.9 per cent. Assets fell by more than £100 million, from £2.48 billion in 1990 to £2.36 billion last year, mainly because of the property slump. The commissioners have suffered from depressed rents, diminished development prospects and difficulty in letting new buildings financed by loans. They have been trying to sell some property, including 400 farms, to reinvest in shares.

The report says that there is no question of the church leaving inner-city or rural areas because of financial problems. However, Sir Douglas yesterday confirmed that the commissioners could not make an expected donation of £1 million to the church's urban fund this year.



Waiting for rescue: Exwistle Hall, Lancashire, above, and The White House, Hampshire, below, are among the historic buildings needing new owners to stop them falling into irreparable decay



Stately homes seek saviours

Hundreds of historic buildings are being offered to new owners to save them from imminent collapse, Rachel Kelly reports

THE largest catalogue yet produced of historic buildings at risk and in search of new owners will be published today by SAVE Britain's Heritage, the conservation body.

Great Expectations: historic buildings in need of repair, the fourth report in SAVE's series on buildings at risk, features 200 buildings. The first report, published in 1989, featured only 80.

Anthony Peers, author of the report, said: "I think the increase reflects the greater co-operation we have had with a greater number of local councils." Councils have a statutory duty to see that the historic buildings in their authority are in good repair, and to serve repair notices on irresponsible owners.

He said that councils had an added incentive to improve their conservation record with the appointment of a secretary of state for the national heritage in the cabinet and with the publication by English Heritage in February of a sample survey of listed buildings. The report said that 36,000 of the 500,000 listed buildings in the country — 7 per cent of the total — were at risk.

The buildings assembled in the report were found mainly by talking to conservation officers. Others came from reports from friends of SAVE; and, for the first time, buildings are being featured

thanks to SAVE's "Crumbling Heritage Hunt", a competition launched last year for the public to discover buildings at risk in their area.

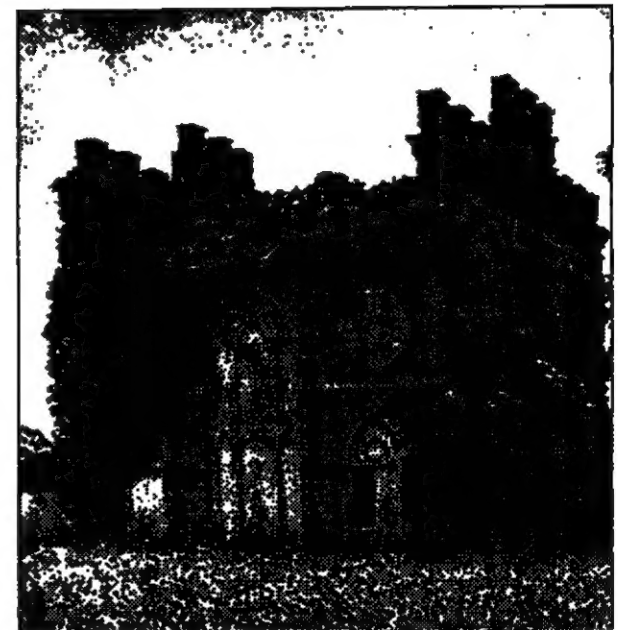
Notable buildings in the report include Bath Lodge, an ivy-clad castellated folly standing alone in a cornfield. Built in the late eighteenth century, it is thought originally to have been a hunting lodge for the Earl of Derby.

It is now in poor condition, and much of the stone slate roof has collapsed. The trustees who own the Grade 2 listed building have agreed to sell. Interested parties should contact the planning department of the West Lancashire District Council.

Another building of note is The White House, Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, built in 1903 to Romaine Walker's designs as a summer house for the Walker-Monro family. With wonderful sea views, its design is full of maritime motifs such as porthole windows. It was once used as a hospital, but has lain empty since a developer bought it four years ago.

Exwistle Hall, near Briercliffe in Lancashire, is a fine Grade 2 listed sixteenth century house with millioned hooded windows, on a moorland site. It has been derelict for ten years.

In the mid-eighties, it was sold to Exwistle Properties, which devised various schemes including develop-



Folly of neglect: the crumbling hulk of Bath Lodge, once an aristocrat's hunting retreat

ment as a golf club and an equestrian centre. Neither have been acted on. Burnley Borough Council has resolved to press for compulsory purchase.

The geographical spread of the buildings at risk in the report reflects partly the enthusiasm of some local councils for conservation. Essex, for example, has 25 buildings at risk included in the report, compared to just five buildings at risk reported in Leicestershire.

"Essex has a very efficient conservation team," Mr Peers said. The Home Counties have fewer buildings at risk in the report because as soon as a building becomes dilapidated, it makes financial sense to restore it. "The problem in the Home Counties is not dilapidated buildings, but over-restored and over-developed buildings," Mr Peers said.

Tax checks leave drivers fuming

A WIDE variety of excuses merged with resigned smiles yesterday as police and the transport department began a nationwide programme of tax disc checks aimed at catching some of the 1.2 million motorists who drive uninsured vehicles.

"It's in the post," was the most common excuse offered to the eight Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency enforcement officers operating a roadside checkpoint in central London. "It is the oldest excuse in the book and does not prevent the motorists from being prosecuted," David Griffiths, DVLA spokesman, said.

Other excuses were rude, some ridiculous. A few showed imagination. "The system is fraudulent. They don't spend the money on the roads so I don't pay it," said one motorcyclist caught without a disc. He insisted that the officer booking him wrote down his words on the

The old excuses may be the best, but they still don't work. Ray Clancy reports from the roadside

form and said that he was fed up hitting dangerous potholes and wanted to see more money spent on the roads.

Douglas Fields, a van driver from Essex, had a lot of explaining to do. His van had been stolen and when it was found by the police there was no tax disc. The officer took down the details and said that no further action would be taken if everything was in order.

Mr Fields questioned the system of checkpoints. "With all the sophisticated computers that they have there must be a better way to catch dodgers than this. I wish they would put as much manpower

into catching van thieves." Mr Griffiths said that a letter system was under consideration whereby evaders would be warned that they faced prosecution unless they bought a disc. But many vehicle-owners, such as classic car owners or seasonal holiday-makers, kept their vehicles off the roads for legitimate reasons.

The DVLA, an agency of the transport department, believes it can get its message over more effectively through advertising campaigns and roadside checks. Last year a similar campaign resulted in 21,000 motorists voluntarily relinquishing their vehicles; 2,000 were prosecuted and £1.4 million in lost revenue was recovered.

Car drivers face fines up to £50 and motorcyclists up to £400 for not displaying a valid tax disc. The maximum fine for evasion is due to be increased to £1,000 in October.

CAA plans to control photo flights

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

NEW legislation to control companies that employ freelance pilots to photograph houses is being considered by the Civil Aviation Authority following a fatal collision between an RAF Jaguar and a Cessna light aircraft over Wales.

The pilots of both aircraft died when the Cessna was hit from behind by the Jaguar on a low-flying exercise over Wales. A report by the transport department's Air Accident Investigation Branch says that aerial photography gives rise to "immediate concern".

The pilot of the Cessna was using a hand-held camera to take photographs which would be offered for sale to the owners of the houses. "Although the practice of using a hand-held camera whilst flying a light aircraft is apparently widespread, it cannot be considered either prudent or in accordance with good airmanship," the report says.

Under present legislation, it says, aircraft may be flown as low as 500ft, but "the temptation to fly at an even lower level in order to obtain a better picture is always present". The accident investigators say that a second pilot or dedicated camera operator and more suitable equipment would seem "a much safer option".

Private pilots may receive payment only for certain types of flying — such as giving instruction or towing a glider — and it is unclear whether payment for taking aerial photographs is legal or not, the investigators say. Clarification is needed.

After the accident, over the village of Carno, Powys, in August last year, the CAA discovered that under present legislation Leeds-based Skyviews and General, the company that employed the pilot, and 12 others, could not be held responsible for any breaches of the air navigation laws.

The CAA has raised the minimum height at which such aircraft can fly without prior approval to 1,000ft and is considering bringing Britain's legislation into line with far tougher procedures already in operation in Europe.

The report exonerates pilot of the Jaguar, Wing Commander John Mardon, 40, from RAF Coltishall, who had returned to flying after a heart and lung transplant. It says Robert Cooper, 46, was flying too low and failed to notify air traffic control of his flight path.

Wing Commander Mardon's supervising co-pilot, Wing Commander Bill Pixon, survived the collision at 400ft by ejecting successfully.

Halford shunned 'old men's dinner'

ALISON Halford, the suspended assistant chief constable of Merseyside, stayed away from an annual dinner for senior officers in the North-West because she could not face being one woman in an old men's club, she told an industrial tribunal in Manchester yesterday (Ronald Faux writes). Miss Halford, 52, is alleging sexual discrimination after failing nine times to win promotion.

On her eleventh day of evidence, she said that she felt uncomfortable at the annual dinners. "It was just not my sort of scene," she said. The dinners had been "a heavy drinking, heavy smoking do" at which she was paraded before the senior, mostly retired, people.

She had assumed that attendance was voluntary and felt that she could not stand attending every year. She did not realise that her absence was going to cause offence.

Miss Halford agreed that she had not attended the dinner for Sir Kenneth Oxford when he retired as chief constable of Merseyside. By then, she said, her dislike for Sir Kenneth was intense. "I did not think I could be so hypocritical and two-faced to go to his function."

Soccer player sent for trial

Gary Blissett, 27, a striker with Brentford, soccer club, was committed for trial by Torquay magistrates, charged with causing grievous bodily harm to an opponent during a third division match last season.

Mr Blissett, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, is alleged to have caused cheekbone and eye injuries to John Uzzell, 32, a Torquay United defender, in December.

Jury stays out

The jury considering the case of a man accused of premeditated murder as a doctor for 30 years without medical qualifications spent last night in an hotel after failing to reach a verdict. Mohammed Saeed, 64, of Bradford, has denied four charges at Leeds Crown Court of obtaining pay and property by deception.

Asbestos fire

Twenty-five firemen were treated with oxygen in hospital after being covered in clouds of blue asbestos while fighting a fire in railway carriages in Cardiff.

Scientists strike

Scientists on the Jet fusion project at Culham, Oxfordshire, were expected to begin a second 24-hour strike last night in protest at wage rates that are lower than their European colleagues'.

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Sleek new trains will take commuters into the 21st century

New coaches for old. The rail passenger's dream is about to come true, reports Michael Dynes

COMMUTERS on one of Britain's worst rail routes are to be given a new fleet of efficient and comfortable trains to take them into the 21st century. The high-tech Networker trains will be introduced in a new-for-old swap with 1950s "slam-door" trains on lines between London and Kent in August.

The suburban trains are part of a £700 million modernisation. They will replace the old trains that have become a symbol of Britain's failure to invest sufficiently in the rail network — at least in the eyes of the 140,000 commuters who use them to travel into London every day.

The first of 680 new coaches will come into service on Network SouthEast's Kent Link between London, Sevenoaks and Gillingham, provided that trials are successful.

Geoff Harrison-Mee, the South Eastern division director, says that the new trains



Departure and arrival: the much-loathed "slam-door" commuter train, left, and its comfortable, high-tech replacement, the Kent Link Networker, right

will do for the railways what 747s did for the airlines, providing long-suffering passengers with much improved standards.

The driver-only trains will have air conditioning, sliding doors, dot matrix information displays, and ergonomically designed interiors.

Networkers will also be the first trains in Britain equipped with regenerative braking, which effectively turns the traction motors into generators when the brakes are applied, thereby reducing electricity costs.

The modernisation programme includes £45 million

for extending platforms so that train lengths can be increased from 10 to 12 coaches. Platforms at 68 stations have been lengthened and work on the platforms at London Bridge will begin next summer to complete the process. Train capacity will increase from 1,000 to 1,400

passengers for a full length train.

Rail planners are confident that increased capacity will lead to a noticeable reduction in overcrowding during the morning and evening rush hours. But with 140,000 commuters trying to get into central London every day,

making the South Eastern division the busiest stretch of railway in Europe, standing in over-crowded trains is unlikely to be eliminated.

The South Eastern division, which makes one of the largest contributions to Network SouthEast's finances, has been hit badly by the

decline in demand caused by the recession, and is likely to see its income fall by about £12 million this year from last year. Declining demand for rail travel has been most noticeable in northern Kent, where office workers live, rather than southern Kent, where the executives live.

As the new Networker coaches are introduced at the rate of two a week for the next two years, the present slam-door rolling stock will be withdrawn from service and scrapped.

Most of the 700 or so 1950s coaches will be destroyed, although a few are likely to be salvaged by preservation societies. Like most of the commuters who have to use them, however, Mr Harrison-Mee will be glad to see the back of them.

The introduction of the Kent Link Networkers is likely to highlight the plight of commuters on Kent Coast services, where the trains, built in the 1960s, are approaching the end of their useful lives.

Network SouthEast had hoped to order another fleet of Networkers for the Kent Coast routes, ready to come into service from 1994. But government funding failed to materialise, and the trains are now unlikely to arrive before 1996-7.

Commuter services in Kent are already the most congested routes in the Network SouthEast region, with 42 per cent of trains entering the capital in peak periods, breaching British Rail's limits on overcrowding.

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MPs lobby Clarke over extradition

By RAY CLANCY

LAWYERS acting for Lorain Osman, Britain's longest-serving remand prisoner, yesterday began new proceedings aimed at preventing his transfer to Hong Kong to face fraud charges.

They are also challenging the decision by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to sign an extradition warrant on Monday. They believe it was hasty and are backed by MPs who planned to discuss the case with Mr Clarke yesterday but were told the meeting was cancelled.

Application papers requesting a writ of habeas corpus, the eighth in the five years that Mr Osman, 60, has been held in custody, were lodged in the High Court with the case expected to be heard on Monday before Lord Justice Woolf. Last week the House of Lords refused to hear a final appeal on the seventh application.

More than 100 MPs have signed an all-party Commons motion supporting Mr Osman, who says he will not get a fair trial in Hong Kong. Last night several MPs called for Mr Clarke to reconsider.



Osman: supported by more than 100 MPs

Genetic wheat created

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A GENETICALLY engineered wheat plant resistant to a common herbicide has been produced at the University of Florida, opening the way for a new era of plant breeding for the Western world's most important cereal crop.

Biotechnology, the journal in which the results are published, says that it is the first time that a transgenic wheat plant has been produced.

Farmers will be able to use the herbicide Basta to kill weeds while leaving the wheat unscathed. Indra Vasil, of the university's Laboratory of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology, believes that bigger advantages will come from the introduction of other genes, including those for disease resistance.

Dr Vasil's team introduced the genes conferring resistance to the herbicide by a method called microprojectile bombardment. The genes were coated onto tiny spheres of gold or tungsten as fine as talcum powder and blasted into the wheat cells by gunpowder. When plants were grown from these transformed cells they proved resistant to the herbicide, and the same was true of their progeny.

Dr Vasil said that all the major cereal grains could now be genetically modified. Wheat had proved harder than either rice or maize because it was difficult to maintain the wheat cells for sufficiently long in cell culture. This problem had been overcome by the discovery of a unique type of culture enabling the cells to be manipulated successfully and fully functional plants recovered.

Village pub fights for special status

A SUFFOLK landlord is considering an appeal against a council decision that his pub is not an essential part of his village community and does not qualify for a rate rebate.

Mid-Suffolk District Council was one of the first authorities to offer rate rebates to village stores where their closure might adversely affect the community. But when Mr Clarke, 56, who runs the Shoulder of Mutton in Old Newton, near Stowmarket, used a similar argument to request a rebate on his £2,000 business rate, he was refused.

"It means it is going to be very difficult for me to make ends meet," he said. "I expect my pub will eventually have to close down." His expected appeal will be supported by his local Licensed Victuallers' Association.

Geoffrey Kistner, chief finance officer for Mid-Suffolk, said that the council had written to 35 village shopkeepers advising that they could claim business rate relief. Ten had been given full relief.

He said that a pub could qualify for a rebate, but there were no plans to extend the scheme beyond

Rural landlords fear closing time is near after a test case on rate rebates, writes Andrew Lycett

shops. "Some pubs might have a strong community benefit. Others might not." Margaret Benson, who has applied for rate relief on the Old Newton Post Office Stores that she runs with her husband, said: "Once a village loses any essential facility like the pub, the whole place dies."

Steve Cox, of the Campaign for Real Ale, said that the decision would contribute to the further decline of village pubs, which he said were "much more than an economic unit for selling beer. It is a focus for social life in the community."

A recent survey by Suffolk Acre (Action by Communities in Rural England) found that, from 1978 to 1988, the number of rural pubs in Suffolk had declined from 367 to 321. It estimates there has been a further 15 per cent fall since 1988, largely since the introduction of the unified business rate in 1990.

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Major rejects claim of secret service report on Maxwell

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister denied categorically yesterday that any intelligence information existed about Robert Maxwell's financial dealings.

John Major told the Commons that the government had had no information about Robert Maxwell's financial affairs as had been alleged in a newspaper article, either in 1989 or subsequently. "I saw no such information... for the good reason that it never existed at all."

Pointing out that previous governments had refused to comment on the security services, Mr Major said he had made his position clear on Maxwell because of the implications for the pensioners involved.

The article in the *Financial Times* alleged that a report had been prepared for the Joint Intelligence Committee, which is part of the Cabinet Office, at the time of Maxwell's death. It also said that intelligence data on Maxwell business operations had been obtained by intercepting conversations and faxes from Israel and the Mediterranean.

Downing Street would not comment yesterday on whether Maxwell had been under surveillance for security matters such as his political links with the Eastern bloc and Israel. A spokesman insisted that the reports referred to in the article did not exist but did not deny that

interceptions may have been made for other reasons.

Mr Major made his position clear after a question from John McFall, Labour MP for Dumbarton, who said the allegations proved that the government had more responsibility than it had admitted to in the affair. Mr McFall urged Mr Major to ask the Treasury to put pressure on the banks to return the £200 million of assets which had been siphoned off from Maxwell pension funds.

The prime minister said Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, had set up a special unit to help trustees trace the missing assets.

Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, said the *Financial Times* report had referred not just to Maxwell but to other national companies that were under surveillance. Mr Hoyle challenged Mr Major to reveal who signed the warrant for this to take place.

"I have no intention of dealing with matters of that sort," Mr Major said. "Every previous government has consistently declined to comment on the activities of the intelligence and security services. I made the point perfectly clear on Maxwell because of the damaging effects that report could have had on the Maxwell pensioners."

David Shaw, Conservative MP for Dover, asked the prime minister if he had any information on the confer-

ence in Liechtenstein today to explain the role of Liechtenstein lawyers and others in secreting away Maxwell monies and to confirm that Mr Major would take action to ensure the money was returned as soon as possible. Mr Major said he had no knowledge about the meeting but would make enquiries.

Mr Shaw said later that Mr Major's comments would ensure that the "temperature was warming up" on Liechtenstein and other tax havens. He estimated that about £2 billion was taken out of the UK economy as a result of fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance. He said it was extremely unlikely that the intelligence services would have understood the significance of any intricate financial information even if they had come across it during other surveillance activities.

Diary, page 14
Pensioners to sue, page 19



Taylor told MPs that water privatisation had led to record numbers of disconnections

Government enquiry to study water shortages

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

AN investigation of water conservation, including the possibility of setting up compulsory metering, will begin next month in the wake of renewed fears over water shortages.

David Maclean, the environment minister, said he hoped the consultation paper would attract a "wide range of responses, not just from those areas short of water but also from those areas which are perceived to have plenty of it."

"All the water delivered to our homes is of drinking water standard but only 2 per cent is used for drinking and each year our overall consumption increases by 1 per cent." He denied Opposition claims that the government favoured metering, but said that the method would be one of the options considered.

Mr Maclean faced accusations from Ann Taylor, Labour's environmental protection spokeswoman, that privatisation of the water companies had led to record numbers of disconnections, increases in charges and in salaries for top management. Opening an Opposition de-

bate on the water industry since privatisation, Mrs Taylor said water bills had risen at three times the rate of inflation, while "multi-million pound perks are on offer to the favoured few" in the water companies.

Many people who had never previously been in debt had received summonses from the new water companies. In 12 months, 900,000 court summonses had been issued and 21,000 houses had been disconnected, a 177 per cent increase on the previous year. She called on the government to intervene so that water companies could not disconnect unless there was wilful refusal to pay a bill. Privatisation of the industry had cost taxpayers £3.3 billion, Mrs Taylor said.

Labour had warned of what would happen, but she added: "There is no satisfaction in being proved right, especially when the cost to so many people has been so great." The government's sale of the industry in a "ridiculous deal" was a "triumph of privatisation dogma over consensus."

Criticising the role of regu-

lators, Mrs Taylor said: "The public need confidence in the regulators. That confidence is not there at the moment." She said that water metering was not the answer to conserving water resources and could lead to suffering among large families and those with medical needs.

Mr Maclean said that Labour had chosen to debate water in its confusion over more complex issues and was relying on old prejudices. Capital investment by the water companies represented 50 per cent of turnover, a far higher proportion than by Britain's major companies. This "massive investment programme" of £28 billion over ten years followed severe underinvestment over the past 30 years.

Mr Maclean said that charges would increase by 63 per cent by the end of the century "because that is the only way of paying for the improvements that the public have clearly indicated they want and expect". He said it was not for the government to dictate to companies what the salaries of management should be.

Prime minister promises power to the people

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES to give greater choice to ordinary people were promised last night by the prime minister as he sought to quell the internal Tory feud over Europe by redirecting attention to his radical domestic agenda for the 1990s.

In a speech that will have pleased the many restive Thatcherites in the new intake of more than 60 Tory MPs, John Major pronounced the death rites over socialism and underlined his personal commitment to using the citizen's charter to enhance the themes of choice, opportunity, responsibility and ownership that had paid rich dividends in the 1980s.

The challenge facing the party was to spread freedom and opportunity ever wider and ever deeper, he told a dinner in London organised by the Adam Smith Institute, a free-market think-tank. The next phase in the Conservative "evolution" would be the

"privatisation of choice". The aim would be to shift the balance of choice more radically than ever before into the hands of ordinary people. "We are chopping Goliath down to size. We are giving people the stings and stones to do it."

Mr Major said that the "chattering classes" had failed to appreciate how deep lay the roots of the Conservative revolution. "We live in a new country. People have greater self confidence, independence and ambition. Forelock tugging belongs to yesterday."

Old habits died hard, however. "Among too many people in this country — people who take the easy choices of prosperity and privilege for granted — there is still an arrogance which assumes that people who have little, or are dependent on public services, cannot be trusted with choice."

Mr Major drew on his humble boyhood in Braddon to argue that in his experience people's aspirations were not limited by their modest means. "They want to be independent, not dependent on town hall or benefit office. They want a share in this country, a hand up not a hand-out."

Arguing that stifling freedom bred resentment, Mr Major promised a lighter hand for government. In spite of the advances of the past 13 years, Britain remained one of the most over-governed nations in Europe. The review of the structure of local government would help to remedy that.

On the industrial front, the state would be taken out of the marketplace. Taxes would be cut to enable people to keep more of their earnings.

The prime minister singled out education, housing, law and order and health as areas where users would be put more securely in the driving seat. Measures were in hand to give tenants new rights to buy, improve and rent their properties.

The police had to be made more responsive to the concerns of the public with more officers on the beat and a greater emphasis on better management and greater flexibility in the use of police manpower. "There should be policeman passing your door regularly, and not just when the burglars have called."

Society would always form itself into groups defined by shared attitudes and interests. He could not legislate against snobbery, no matter how much he deplored it. Instead, he wanted to do away with the "old divide" between those who choose and those who have to take what they are given.

Contracts blamed for dispute

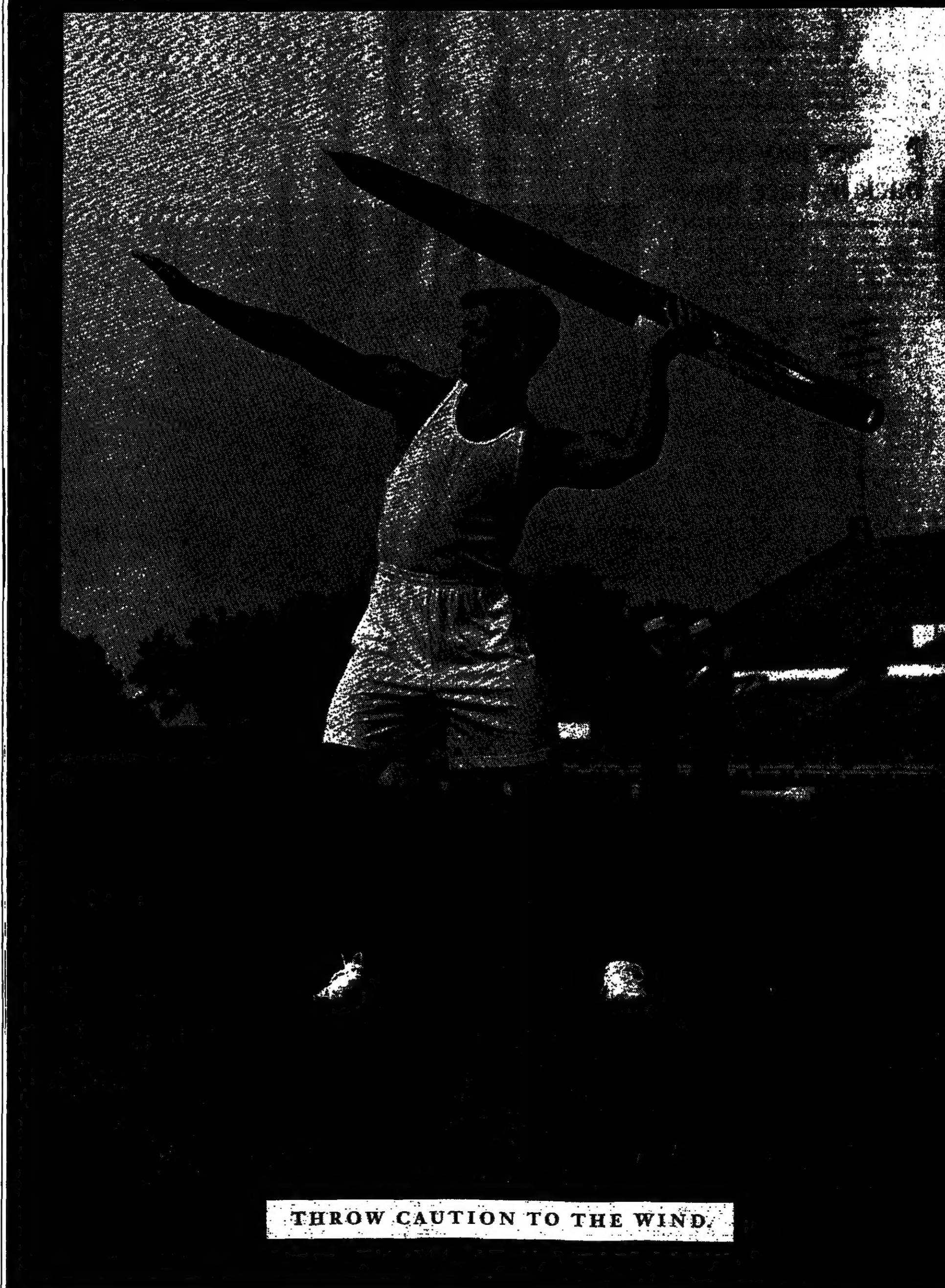
By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the health secretary, yesterday fought off allegations that the government had created the current dispute with dentists by forcing the profession to accept new contracts.

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, said that the dispute stemmed from contracts imposed "against the wishes of most dentists". The resulting decision by many dentists to withdraw from the NHS led to suspicions that dentistry was being privatised or that the government wanted to privatise it. Dentists are being balloted this week on industrial action over a 7 per cent reduction in their fees.

During health questions Harriet Harman, a Labour spokesman on health, accused the government of breaking patient's charter promises within a month of the charter being launched. In the first month of the charter, 1,999 patients had been waiting more than two years and 10,000 people in London had to wait longer than the 14 minutes within which the charter promised an accident and emergency ambulance would be available in urban areas.

The slight increase in the should be seen in the context of the reduction in the last year, when the total had fallen from 51,000 to less than 2,000, Mrs Bottomley said.



THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND

quiry to ortages

Kinnock threatens to back referendum on Maastricht

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH doubts over the government's ability to push through legislation to ratify the Maastricht treaty were raised yesterday as Neil Kinnock threatened that Labour might support a referendum.

Mr Kinnock, who withdrew his application to head the Confederation of European Socialist Parties because of potential conflict between his party's line and the pro-Maastricht approach of his European partners, said that to rule out a referendum would be foolish.

At the same time John Major hinted that Britain's expected support for Jacques Delors to be reappointed as European Commission president for the next two years might be accompanied by an understanding that a new candidate, possibly Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, or Sir Leon Brittan, would take over after that.

In the Commons Mr Major insisted that Britain had yet to decide whether to support M Delors, despite a claim from Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, that as

recently as last weekend the foreign secretary had told Britain's European partners "to let Mr Delors's office know that the government would not stand in the way of his reappointment".

He explained that two appointments needed to be considered: that of Commission president for the next two years, followed by the appointment of someone who would be in office for a full five years after that.

Behind Mr Major's remarks was the apparent belief that the only alternatives to M Delors for the next two years are people such as Martin Bangemann, the West German single market commissioner, and Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, who are more federalist than M Delors. It appears the government believes that the way to get a candidate of its choice in two years' time is to go along with M Delors now. A senior source said that Mr Lubbers was not available now, and Sir Leon was not electable because of the short period since the last British president.

The Lisbon summit next week can only deal formally with the imminent two-year term, according to government sources. The clear implication is that there will be informal talks about the longer period.

Mr Kinnock's indication that Labour might support a referendum will worry the government. With support from the Liberal Democrats and the Tory Euro-sceptics, there would be a real possibility of a government defeat. Labour is fast moving to a position where it is likely to oppose the Maastricht bill if and when it returns to the Commons.

Mr Kinnock, speaking in Lisbon, said: "It would be foolish to exclude the possibility of a referendum at some stage on ratification and Britain's role in the EC... It really is a constitutional issue that has got to be resolved within the British democratic system."

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, took a slightly more cautious line in a radio interview. Mr Kaufman said the government's

top priority should be to allow a full Commons debate on the future of the EC before the summer recess in mid-July.

On the referendum question he said: "Both Neil Kinnock and I said at the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting last Wednesday that a referendum could not be ruled out. We have also said that the first thing that has to be decided is whether there is going to be a Maastricht treaty bill to pass. Our own view... is that this bill now is not a valid piece of legislation."

He said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that there was no point in talking about a referendum until it became clear there was still a treaty for Parliament to ratify. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said on the same programme: "I can't understand Labour's position or their tactics. If they want to put pressure on the government they must come clean about what they want themselves."

Diary, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15



Ninety minutes is a long time in politics: Walthamstow MP Neil Gerrard stops for breath during a football match against lobby journalists yesterday. The MPs lost 3-0, with Philip Webster of *The Times* scoring one goal



British reforms revived

Graham Allen, Labour MP for Nottingham North, revived his attempt to reform radically the British constitution when he presented three connected bills in the Commons. They would replace the House of Lords with an elected chamber; provide for a written constitution; and incorporate the European convention on human rights into United Kingdom law.

In the last parliament Mr Allen launched a similar campaign. His bills in this session have no chance of being enacted and little of being debated.

On the move

The government is planning to disperse more than 18,000 civil service jobs away from the South-East over the next four years, according to a written answer from Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury. It shows that 3,000 defence ministry jobs are to go to Bristol, 1,800 Inland Revenue posts to Nottingham, 1,700 Home Office jobs to Derby, 1,290 Customs and Excise jobs to Liverpool, 1,200 health jobs to Leeds, and 1,000 agriculture ministry jobs to York. More the 5,000 social security jobs are to be distributed throughout the country.

Homes saved

The Council of Mortgage Lenders estimates that the combined effect of measures taken by the government and the lenders since December will save some 55,000 repossessions this year, Tony Baldry, an environment minister, said in a written reply.

Lost duty

The eight-month moratorium on stamp duty on house purchases will cost the Treasury about £400 million, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary, said in a written reply.

Oil earnings

Total revenue to the Exchequer from the North Sea since 1979-80 has been £71 billion, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary, said in a written reply.

£7m bill

The Foreign Office spent £7,102,000 on entertainment last year, Alistair Goodlad, a minister of state, said in a Commons written reply.

Labour report

We wish to make it clear that the report referred to in Monday's story on Labour's election inquiry was not the general secretary's report, but an internal paper by a party official; and that the report by the general secretary to the Labour party's National Executive Committee does not in any way blame the Shadow Communications Agency or individuals associated with it for Labour's election defeat.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment, Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Debates on Hong Kong and South China; on Palestinian refugees; and on religious education in schools.

MPs push for big rise in allowance

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Newton, leader of the Commons, is caught in a tussle between MPs and the Treasury over an unpublished report recommending a substantial increase in MPs' allowances.

Conservative and Labour backbench MPs are pressing Mr Newton to publish the report of the Top Salaries Review Body and to support its demand for an increase worth around £20,000 a year for each MP for office expenses and equipment.

MPs are allowed up to £28,986 a year each for office and secretarial assistance. The report is expected to call for a rise to £48,000 a year, with most of the extra money compensating MPs for help in their constituency offices and for equipment.

Mr Newton has not yet persuaded Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, to agree the whole rise this year because of the prospect of public criticism at MPs voting for more money for their staff during a recession. Mr Portillo is understood to be arguing for a slightly more modest rise or for the increase to be phased in over the lifetime of the parliament.

The Commons leader and his predecessor, John MacGregor, have been sitting on the report since March because of sensitivity of publication around election time. But government sources confirmed yesterday that Mr Newton is anxious to publish the report and announce the government's stance next week, if agreement with the Treasury has been reached.

He faced demands from Tory MPs, most notably the younger members, at last week's 1992 backbench committee to implement the whole of the rumoured increase.

The new intake on both sides of the Commons have complained at the lack of back-up facilities and secretarial help they can claim.

In 1982 the MPs defeated the Thatcher government by voting for a large pay rise.

Tory staff sacked

BY KERRY GILL

SIX of the 30-strong staff at the Scottish Conservative party headquarters have been sacked in an attempt to cut overheads and enable the party to operate without extra funding from London.

The most surprising sacking was that of Alice Luce, the press officer, who was regarded by many as a highly competent member of staff whose work during the general election campaign was widely recognised. Jayne Stopani, her assistant, was also made redundant as were Keith Griffiths, a Central Office agent, and Craig Stevenson, a researcher, and two secretaries.

Miss Luce's position will be filled by David Watt, former personal assistant to Lord Sanderson of Bowden, the Scottish party chairman, Gracie Carter, Lord Sanderson's political adviser,

will become head of information and research. Miss Luce, 32, said: "After all the commitment and hard work I put into a professional and successful general election campaign to be treated this way is a real slap in the face."

Yesterday a senior party member said that once the election was over it had become necessary to slim down the operation at head office and cut costs.

Nearly two years ago three party officials were sacked by Lord Sanderson only a matter of days after he took over as chairman from Michael Forsyth.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Conservative MP for Perth and Kinross, said: "It is monstrous. This is absolutely outrageous and I am very sorry. You simply cannot treat servants of our culture and faith in this sort of way."

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Film will honour life and death of anti-Mafia hero

LESS than a month after Giovanni Falcone was assassinated on the road to Palermo, Giuseppe Ferrara, the film director, has staged his rivals by beginning work on a £5.5 million epic about the life of the anti-Mafia judge.

Critics predict the movie will be a box-office success, catering to the desperate need for Italians to find new heroes in public life. Worship of judges, alive and dead, is growing in Italy in inverse proportion to the flagging fortunes of its politicians. Last week more than 1,000 teenagers converged on a disco in Turin to launch a fan club for Antonio Di Pietro, the Milan magistrate who has arrested 50 politicians and businessmen in the biggest investigation of political bribery and corruption since the second world war.

"Di Pietro is the symbol of our future," Davide Lambert, an organiser of the event, said. Photographers jostled each other to take pictures of girls wearing T-shirts bearing portraits of the judge. As loudspeakers blared out "anti-bribery rock", *Panorama* magazine said: "The Milan judge seems to be the new Italian hero who is greatly in demand."

Disillusionment with the Italian political class that refuses to relinquish power undoubtedly has helped to boost the popularity of investigators, commentators say. Ten weeks after Italians cast a huge protest vote against traditional parties in a general election, the country seems no nearer to installing a government to replace the discredited caretaker coalition led by Giulio Andreotti, the veteran Christian Democrat.

"I am fed up with this government, there is nothing good on the horizon. Our only hope is Di Pietro," one of the revellers at the Hennessy Disco, Paolo Balocco, told *Corriere della Sera*.

A nation that has lost faith in its corrupt politicians is paying instant tribute to a brave judge, writes John Phillips in Rome

President Scalfaro yesterday began a second week of consultations to try to name a new prime minister. The main candidate, Bettino Craxi, has been badly burnt by the involvement of his Socialist party in the Milan bribery scandal.

Italians disappointed by the antics of Rome politicians cannot even seek much inspiration from sporting figures these days. A Spaniard won the Giro d'Italia bicycle race last weekend only a short time after hopes that the Moro di Venezia yacht would win the America's Cup were dashed.

What is happening in Italy recalls the idolising in the United States of crime-busting figures such as Thomas Dewey, the Manhattan prosecutor who took on the New York Mafia and went on to challenge Harry Truman for the presidency, or Elliot Ness, whose role in bringing down Al Capone was lionised in the film *The Untouchables*.

Signor Ferrara first made a name for himself with his film *One Hundred Days of Palermo*, about the killing by the Mafia in 1982 of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa. The film-maker knew Signor Falcone well. The judge acted as his technical adviser for the filming of the gory re-enactment of the ambush of the carabinieri general. "The scene of the attack gave me great difficulty," Signor Ferrara says. "Falcone gave me important advice." The director has been criticised by some of his colleagues, who say he is

marketing the project insensitively while the family and friends of the judge are still in mourning.

His flamboyant rival, Franco Zeffirelli, for example, has accused him of "cannibalism". Signor Ferrara responds that he will respect relatives of the judge, if necessary, he will communicate with them for information only by letter. "I believe the cinema should serve to demonstrate that certain dead persons live on in the conscience of the people," Signor Ferrara says.

Nevertheless Signor Ferrara must hurry. At least three other directors are working on competing movies about the assassination on May 23. The vulnerability of the judges evidently contributes to their attraction. Signor di Pietro's escort has been increased since the Falcone killing. His wife and daughter also are guarded whenever they leave their home in the Bergamosco countryside. His family is restricted to what the Italian press calls "a bullet-proof existence".

The dilapidated Palace of Justice where Signor di Pietro has his offices has become the most hallowed shrine for ordinary Milanese after the city's colossal cathedral. Autograph hunters loiter on its steps looking for the magistrate. He receives 150 fan letters a day. Security is relaxed at his headquarters. Only one carabinieri policeman guards the main entrance to the building, which is decorated with plaques dedicated to murdered investigators.

Pino Arlacchi, Italy's leading criminologist, believes the Milan judge can serve as a model in the Mafia-ridden Mezzogiorno, where the risks run by courageous magistrates are probably higher than in the northern business capital. "Di Pietro certainly can be imitated. He is a great example of honest and tenacious normality. Certainly, there are tremen-



Martyr in the war on crime: Giovanni Falcone, target of the Mafia whom he pursued and, below, the wreckage of his burnt-out car. A race is now on to film his career and show that he lives on in the conscience of Italians

dous obstacles in the south. But one can do what Di Pietro does, that is to say simply to apply the law."

Signor di Pietro's enquiries in what was codenamed "Operation Clean Hands" disclosed what his boss, Severio Borrelli, the chief prosecutor, called "a whole system of corruption pouring out like oil".

Politicians from the main parties, including the Christian Democrats and the former communist Democratic Party of the Left, were found to be taking bribes from businessmen in return for lucrative public works contracts. Much of the money was then stashed in Swiss bank accounts for use as party coffers.



Irish expect EC to close gap between rich and poor states

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE new European Community budget will be generous enough to the Irish Republic to help to close the gap between the EC's poorest states and their wealthier neighbours, David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister, said yesterday on the eve of his country's referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Andrews, whose government sounds increasingly worried about the outcome of tomorrow's vote, aimed his pro-treaty speech in Brussels at the republic's stake in the

EC's next five-year budget. Two ministerial meetings in the past fortnight have attacked the original package as unaffordable.

Mr Andrews said that for the first time since the republic joined the EC "it seems possible for us to make serious inroads into closing the gap between ourselves and our more prosperous partners". He said it was wrong to claim that the Delors budget would be cut back over the next few months. But he did not repeat the claim made

during the referendum campaign by Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, that the republic's share of EC funds would double to £6 billion in the period 1993-97.

Although all 12 EC governments have agreed to set up a "cohesion fund" for the four poorest EC states, no decision has been reached on its size. Britain, France and Germany are all contesting Mr Delors's claim that regional funds, from which Dublin benefits, should be doubled.

Mr Andrews also said that

the republic could not be drawn into "military alignment and ensuing conflict" by the Maastricht treaty's brief reference to an eventual common defence policy. The treaty nowhere defines what that might mean, but the Irish Republic and some other neutral countries applying to join the EC insist that this means international peace-keeping and nothing more. "There is nothing in the treaty about conscription or a European army," he said.

He added that he did not believe that the Irish campaign would be affected by the surge of anti-treaty feeling at Westminster. "If the Irish vote is to be in any way influenced by that sort of element," he said, "God help Ireland."

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Andrews: Ireland will benefit from budget

Major goes with Delors tide

BY GEORGE BROCK

ON THE night he returned from the Maastricht summit last December, John Major addressed a dinner for Conservative members of the European parliament on the subject of Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. From now on, the prime minister told the MEPs, the government will stop knocking M Delors and try to work with him.

In the effervescent aftermath of Mr Major's negotiating success at Maastricht, the government decided to make a virtue of necessity. If M Delors's reappointment was unavoidable, ministers would both try to rein him in and to rehabilitate his image. However, the attempt to sell M Delors as a humble civil ser-

vant was half-hearted, began late and has now run into ferocious resentment on the backbenches.

Retaining M Delors, Tony Marlow, MP, said, this week, would be as logical as "reappointing Napoleon as emperor after the battle of Waterloo".

When Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister who will chair the EC Lisbon summit next week, arrives in London tomorrow, Mr Major has little choice but to join the chorus of approval for the extension of M Delors's tenure for two years. Since Britain cannot produce a rival, Mr Major's only alternative would be to ask for the decision to be delayed.

In the tense and febrile atmosphere provoked by the Danish referendum on the Maastricht treaty, a request for a pause would be treated as a hostile act by all 11 of Britain's partners. Mr Major has based his entire strategy inside the EC on avoiding being boxed into vulnerable isolation.

The selection of a European Commission president reveals the inner workings of EC power politics. Nominating the head of the 17-strong Commission and the Commission's 13,000 officials is almost the only detailed power reserved for the Community's 12 leaders. Like virtually every "decision" made by these summits, the question is settled in advance.

UN report accuses Croats of coveting Bosnian land

BY ROGER BOYES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United Nations Security Council yesterday was considering a report on the Yugoslav conflict which blames not only Serbia for the war in Bosnia but also accuses Croatia of fighting for land in the beleaguered republic.

The Croatian role in the Bosnian war has been played down so far by the West, partly because Zagreb's culpability is indeed much smaller than that of Belgrade. It is Serbian, not Croatian, forces which until this week's ceasefire have been bombarding and starving out the city of Sarajevo. Moreover, the debilitated Bosnian leadership does not want to open a second diplomatic front against Croatia when it is fighting for the republic's physical survival. It has been politely listening to Zagreb's proposals for a Bosnian-Croatian confederation.

Even so, the Zagreb government has been pursuing its own strategy in Bosnia and seems to be as ready as Belgrade to consider the dismemberment of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Croatian leadership under President Tudjman has been trying diligently to avoid the impression of making a Serbian-style land grab in Bosnia. Zagreb recognised the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina and has made no territorial claims. Privately, President Tudjman has long talked of the need to partition Bosnia, and at the last European Community session before the war began

Serbs, Croats and (reluctantly) Muslims agreed to the principle of "regionalisation" the republic. This has been presented as a distant, strategic aim rather than a military objective.

But Croat nationalists have been going well beyond this and other agreements: only the need of Alija Izetbegovic, the beleaguered president, to concentrate his forces on fighting the Serbs has prevented a complete flare-up of war on multiple fronts.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, said yesterday that an advance party of UN "blue helmets" had found Sarajevo airport to be in "usable condition", but stopped short of recommending that UN peacekeepers should move in immediately to reopen it for relief flights.

He said in a report to the security council that installations at the airport, now in the hands of Serb forces, were "in better condition than had been feared". But he added that lack of electricity made it impossible for the 30-man United Nations reconnaissance team to check equipment in the control tower and the approach beacons, and said that no fuel tankers for fire engines remained.

Dr Boutros Ghali said that an agreement would shortly be signed with the Serbs controlling the airport on the removal of all heavy weapons. He did not, however, recommend the immediate deployment of a 1,000-strong UN

force already approved in principle by the security council to reopen the airport, saying that continued fighting made access to it difficult.

Meanwhile, agency reports from Belgrade said that a ceasefire in Sarajevo stabilised yesterday, bolstering UN preparations for an emergency aid airlift to civilians.

Pierre Joxe, the French defence minister, said yesterday that France was ready to send extra troops to Yugoslavia to form a task force with Russian and Egyptian soldiers to protect Sarajevo airport. "The goal is to avoid a genocide of the people of Sarajevo," he told reporters attending a military exercise in southern France.

Moravia accused of anti-Semitic link

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

FRIENDS of the novelist Alberto Moravia leaped to his defence yesterday after it was disclosed that one of his short stories was published in a French anti-Semitic magazine in 1941.

Renzo Paris, a poet and writer, made public the existence of the translation of the short story, *Morte Improvisa* (Unexpected Death), in the French magazine *Je Suis Parout*, which was edited by the anti-Semitic ideologist, Robert Brasillach, during the Nazi occupation of France. Signor Paris has suggested that Moravia, who was half Jewish, must have been aware of the publication but apparently took no measures to denounce his manipulation by the French far right.

Fascist authorities in Italy censored Moravia's works and he was forced to flee from his home in Rome. Signor Paris contends that Moravia, a lifelong sympathiser with the Italian Communist Party, should no longer be considered a man of the left after the literary discovery. *Morte Improvisa* is a violent criticism of the corrupt Italian bourgeoisie of the period between the wars.

"Certainly the Catholic and conservative Brasillach, who did not know of Moravia's links with Jewishness, published a tale so contrary to his own ideology for various different motives," Signor Paris told *La Stampa*. He suggested those might be "to show himself as an intellectual lacking prejudices by translating a writer considered ob-

scene who was a known anti-fascist, but above all because the work of Moravia is very complex."

Dacia Maraini, a writer and former companion of Moravia, said she believed he probably was unaware of the translation by the French magazine. "Alberto was always attacked by the right as well as by the left, by the Catholics because they held that he was a pornographer, but also by those moralists on



Moravia: attacked by left as well as right

the left according to whom men ought to be made up only of ideas and not of flesh." Enzo Siciliano, the writer, who is president of the Alberto Moravia Foundation, also joined in complaints that he sees as a slur on the author. Signor Siciliano said that in protest he would not take part in a debate on Moravia organised last night in memory of the writer by Rome city council.

McDonald's Russian chips stick in Polish throats

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE Americanisation of Eastern Europe advanced another step yesterday when McDonald's opened its first fast-food restaurant in Poland. In a disclosure that is certain to spark controversy, Andrzej Konopski, the manager, admitted that he would be serving chips made from Russian, and not Polish, potatoes.

"We don't like this at all," a Peasants' Party spokesman said. "What is wrong with Polish potatoes?" East Europeans have been happy enough so far to be invaded by American consumer goods companies. Pepsi and Coke are engaged in a cola war for the East European soft-drinks market. Levi jeans has opened a factory in the Polish city of Plock. American building com-

panies are offering prefabricated houses modelled on small-town America, and the grandest symbol of any Warsaw playboy is a petro-guzzling Pontiac.

In the absence of serious investment from other economic powers, Central Europe has set up none of the cultural barricades erected by France or Italy, where slow-food restaurants are defiantly being established.

That may well be changing, however. Before Polish television celebrities and columnists elbow their way to the counter for free Big Macs yesterday, they bombarded McDonald's executives with questions about how much American consumer giants actually contributed to the economy. McDonald's emphasised that it will use local apple

juice, Polish lettuce and dairy products. Moreover, the first restaurant will employ 500 Poles and a further five fast-food branches are planned in the country over the next two years. The company argues, quite persuasively, that the system of franchises will help to spawn a new management class. But McDonald's is coming up against some resistance in Eastern Europe.

In Prague, the city council has been reluctant to approve a new fast-food site in the middle of the Old Town. In Budapest, dozens of local employees have had to be dismissed because they could not keep up with the American time-and-motion work pace.

The new democracies of the East are starting to demand quid pro quos from

the American investors. Thus Coca Cola was allowed to buy a Czech bottling company only after it agreed to donate funds to Prague Zoo.

Most American entrepreneurs believe they are giving Central Europe a good deal. The products are competitively priced and profits are not expected for some years.

The reason is that the American companies are building forward bases for the Americanisation of the former Soviet Union. McDonald's has a fast-food flagship in Moscow, but most companies are waiting for the consumer market to mature — and the Russian currency to stabilise — before shifting further east. Thus Philip Morris, the American cigarette manufacturer, has just bought Tabak, the Czechoslovak

state tobacco company. The purpose of the factory will be to meet "a phenomenal growth of exports to Russia, which is short of cigarettes, and also to Central Asia."

Louis Camilleri, a Philip Morris vice-president, remarked recently.

Domestic consumer producers — not to mention the Polish farmers — feel that they have been edged into a corner by the Western giants, unable to compete with the costly advertising campaigns launched by American companies. President Walesa, irritated by the new advertising culture of his country, recently complained that the West was dumping "brightly packaged rubbish" on Poland. Certainly after decades of under-stimulation, the Central European consumer

now finds himself courted from all sides and is spending harder and more rapidly than his Western consumer counterpart.

The first satellite television dishes arrived in Poland in 1989. There are now close to 1.3 million. The first video-recorders appeared in Poland in 1985, and today there are four million. Last year Poles bought 1.2 million colour television sets. General Motors reckons that Poles bought \$1.5 billion (£807 million) worth of cars last year.

Suddenly Poles, Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians find they need so many things that they never needed before: pet food, breakfast cereal, peanut butter and cheeseburgers in plastic containers complete with "French fries" from Russia.

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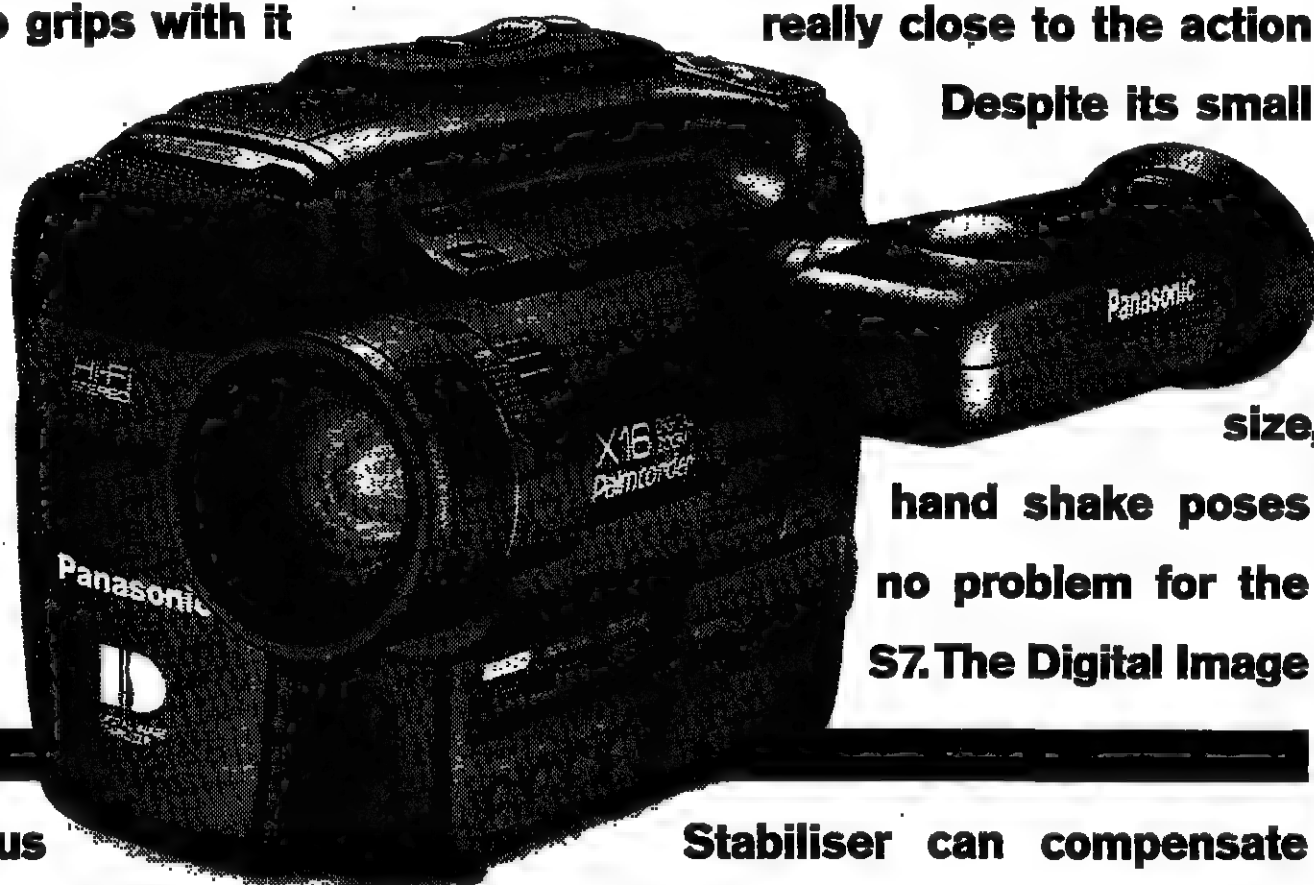
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ANC marks day of action with plea to end violence

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

DESPITE an overnight death toll of at least 25, the first day of mass action planned by the African National Congress and its allies passed off more in the spirit of a winter holiday.

Basking in the mild sunshine, thousands of black workers heard speeches from the ANC stalwarts. Police and defence force patrols kept a low profile, but there was plenty of local and international media attention for Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, who unveiled a memorial to Hector Petersen, the first schoolboy to die in the 1976 Soweto uprising.

June 16 marks Soweto Day and it is already a quasi-public holiday, at least so far as the black community is concerned. Employers of black unionised labour such as De Beers, the mining giant, or Checkers, the supermarket chain, have long had agreements with their employees that they can take the day off if they want to. De Beers workers belonging to the National Union of Mineworkers were not at work, but anyone engaged in essential services was expected to turn up and certain operations continued.

The all-white Mineworkers Union issued a statement attacking the mine-owners for treating it "like a spare wheel

that is hauled out in times of crisis and dusted off, and put away in a dark corner once the crisis has passed". The union told what it called the *geldreus*, the money-giants, that they should no longer take the loyalty of the white worker for granted.

Commuter trains from the townships mostly ran empty. The usually ubiquitous minibus taxis were absent from the streets. Central Johannesburg had a Sunday air, with street hawkers and traders a good deal thinner on the ground than normal.

The largely unexplained violence was confined to the townships on the East Rand and in Vaal triangle south of Johannesburg. Five passengers were killed and another 18 wounded when three men with AK47s opened up on a crowded railway platform near Benoni on Monday evening. Six others were killed when an armed group fired at a minibus taxi near Vereeniging. The group then killed three members of the ANC who were patrolling nearby.

While the trouble was confined to such black-on-black incidents, the residents of the white suburbs were able to continue their lives untroubled. Traffic was light, some of the restaurants closed because staff did not turn up, but the shopping malls and rows of boutiques were open as usual.

Some delivery vans did not arrive as expected but the townships seemed a long way off.

Mr Mandela, however, was somewhat reassuring. "Do not be provoked into violence," he told a 40,000-strong crowd in the Orlando football stadium in Soweto. "By killing and revenge you do not help the community. Carrying violence to the white areas would be a disaster of the first magnitude."

That has not stopped the government from playing up the threat of violence. The air was thick with appeals from ministers to the ANC not to go ahead with their programme of mass action, and with threats from other ministers that the police and armed forces were on standby to ensure that property and persons would be protected.

But the ANC made it clear that it had every intention of going on with the disruption. "We shall press the government to accept democracy," insisted Mr Mandela, to the delight of his supporters, many wearing "Forward to Victory" T-shirts.

Elsewhere, the police intervened with tear gas to defuse confrontations between people for and against the strike. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Strikers fight India reforms

Delhi: One person was killed yesterday during a strike by about 12 million Indian workers against radical economic reforms they fear could cost many jobs, officials said.

Reports from around the country suggested that the strike, marred by scattered violence, was only partly successful outside West Bengal, where it was supported by the Marxist government, one of the most vociferous opponents of reform. Buta Dev Bhattacharya, West Bengal's information minister, said in Calcutta, the state capital, that one member of a communist trade union was killed in a clash with workers supporting the federal Congress party government. The communists were trying to enforce the strike at a tea estate.

Elsewhere, the police intervened with tear gas to defuse confrontations between people for and against the strike. (Reuters)

Yemen killing

Sanaa: Gunmen murdered the brother of Haider Abu Bakr al-Atas, the Yemeni prime minister, Sanaa radio said. It described the gunmen as "criminals... who aim to disrupt security and block the march of unity". (Reuters)

Five accused

Abuja: Boko Ransome-Kuti, a Nigerian human rights campaigner, and four other democracy activists appeared in court charged with treason after riots in Lagos last month. Their request for bail was being considered. (AFP)

Money charges

Perth: Brian Burke, a former Australian ambassador to the Irish Republic, forced to resign last year because of an official enquiry into his business dealings, was charged with five counts of false pretences. (Reuters)

Crushed vodka

Kabul: Islamic fundamentalist troops used a tank to crush 4,000 bottles of vodka in Kabul in a warning against drinking alcohol in Afghanistan. They forced shopkeepers who had stocked it to watch the destruction. (AFP)

Priest accused

Melbourne: Father Vincent Kiss, a Roman Catholic priest, was sent for trial accused of stealing £1.1 million from charities to support a lavish lifestyle, said to include a holiday home in the Philippines. (Reuters)

Bored to blazes

Sydney: Derek Blackmore, 24, an Australian volunteer fireman accused of starting a series of blazes, including one at Sydney airport, said he was bored with having nothing to do at the fire station, a Sydney court was told. (Reuters)



Lone vigil: Margaret Thatcher stands alone yesterday in the British war cemetery at San Carlos in the Falkland Islands, the point at which the first British soldiers came ashore in the 1982 campaign to recapture the islands from Argentina. Mrs Thatcher is attending celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the islands' liberation

German captives should be free today Bonn denies making deal to gain hostages release

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE two Hamadi brothers jailed in Germany are likely to see their prison conditions eased after the expected release of the German hostages, Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said yesterday. At the same time he firmly denied that there had been any behind-the-scenes negotiations with the hostage takers in Lebanon.

"We have not let ourselves be blackmailed in any way," he said in a radio interview. "We have made no assurances and no financial means have been promised or transferred." At the same time he rejected criticism from the families of the two hostages that Germany could have done more to secure their release earlier. "Everything possible was done," he said.

Bernd Schmiedbauer, the minister of state at the German chancellery, who is in Beirut to collect the two Germans, Heinrich Struëbig and Thomas Kempfner, who were kidnapped in 1989, said that he was expecting their release by this morning. He told reporters after talks with President Hrawi of Lebanon: "I am sure that within the next 12 hours we will leave for Germany. We will not leave without the hostages."

Before leaving for his meeting with Mr Hrawi, Herr Schmiedbauer was joined at Beirut's Bristol hotel by Giandomenico Picco, the United Nations hostage negotiator who helped win the release of the last nine American and British hostages in Lebanon last year.

Conflicting reports about the Germans' whereabouts were typical of the confusion surrounding earlier hostage handovers when agonising hours would be spent between the times of their reported release and their actual handover to diplomats. In a statement on Monday the Iranian-backed "Freedom Strugglers" said they were releasing "the two Germans because of 'positive results' in negotiations over the Hamadi brothers. While denying any deal, Herr Kinkel suggested that there could be an improvement in their prison conditions.

One of the two, Muhammad Ali, was slightly injured last year in a fight at the Schwabstadt prison near Frankfurt, where he is serving a life sentence for hijacking a TWA plane and killing a passenger, a US Navy diver, in 1985. He has complained that he needs extra protection.

He would also like to be reunited in prison with his brother, Abbas, who is serving a 13-year sentence imposed in 1988 for helping to kidnap two German businessmen in Beirut.

Abbas could be paroled in about four years time, when he has served half of his sentence. Muhammad, however, would not normally be eligible for early release from his life sentence until the start of the next century.

The German government has repeatedly insisted that it cannot do anything to change the sentences imposed on the two brothers by the independent courts. It is possible, however, under Article 456a of the criminal law to release them, provided they are immediately expelled from the country. This article was used in 1983 when a Libyan, sentenced to life for the murder of a Libyan diplomat, was sent home in exchange for four Germans serving long sentences there.

A quick release of this kind is seen as unlikely, however, since it would anger the Americans, who originally tried without success to extradite Muhammad to stand trial for shooting the navy diver.

Aggressive Rabin puts Shamir on defensive

FROM RICHARD BERTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, was thrown on the defensive last night only a week before the general election when Yitzhak Rabin, his main rival, savaged the Likud party's record in office during a televised debate.

The opposition Labour party leader appeared to win a decisive points victory over Mr Shamir, who seemed relaxed but failed to rebut convincingly charges made against his administration. The debate could have an important effect on swaying undecided voters at a point in the campaign where polls suggest the two parties are finely balanced.

Mr Rabin, 70, a former prime minister best remembered as the chief of staff who masterminded the victory over Arab armies in the six-day war, led the offensive yesterday when he made a spirited attack against Likud's record on the Middle East peace process, foreign affairs, Jewish immigration and the economy.

In particular, he accused the ruling Likud government of throwing away the chance to make peace with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbours by its insistence on pumping millions of pounds into the construction of politically inspired Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. The policy had alienated the United States, Israel's greatest ally, which had withheld \$5.5 billion in loan guarantees which were meant to help in absorbing immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Mr Shamir tried to defend his record, emphasising the difficulties of absorbing the equivalent of 10 per cent of the population and insisted that no policy was more important to the future of the country than keeping the occupied West Bank and Gaza, regarded as the biblical Land of Israel. "There is no way of achieving peace through territorial concession," the Israeli leader insisted. He counter-attacked by accusing the Labour party of laying the groundwork for a Palestinian state in the occupied territories because of Mr Rabin's commitment to granting autonomy for its Arab population of 1.7 million.

Ramos wins race for president

Fidel Ramos, 64, who helped to topple a dictator and defeat six coup attempts, has won the Philippines presidential race.

The official tally after five weeks of counting showed the West Point-trained general securing 5.34 million votes. In second place was Miriam Santiago, the fiery anti-corruption crusader, with 4.47 million votes.

Dan Quayle, the vice-president puzzled elementary school pupils when he made a boy in Trenton, New Jersey, misspell the word potato. The boy went to the blackboard, wrote "potato" and was told by Mr Quayle he was missing a letter. When the puzzled boy added an "e", making the word "potatoe", Quayle praised him to the amazement of reporters.

Waka Shirahama, Japan's oldest person, has died at her home. She was 114 and had nine children, 16 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Milan Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's prime minister, flew into London for a five-day visit and meetings with

John Major. They are expected to discuss Pakistan's territorial dispute with India over Kashmir and the non-proliferation of nuclear arms. The Queen will receive him at Windsor on Friday.

Twyla Tharp, 50, the dancer who choreographed the dance sequences in *Amadeus*, was among the 33 recipients of MacArthur Foundation "genius" grants.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, visited Israel's Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, and said the experience helped him to understand the country's meaning to the Jewish people. The museum chronicles the rise of Nazism in Germany.

Marina Tsimtsidou, 21, a model from Greece, was crowned Miss Europe at a beauty pageant in Athens. Czechoslovakia's Pavlína Fabrová, 19, was first runner-up, followed by Turkey's Başak Sagmak, 19. Contestants from 33 countries took part in the pageant, which was held at the Zappeion Mansion in Athens.



Ship of the future: a helicopter hovering above the world's first ship to use superconducting magnetic coils during its abortive sea trial yesterday

Magnetic ship trial aborted

Kobe: Researchers cut short the inaugural sea trials of the world's first electromagnetic ship because an emergency warning shut down its superconducting magnets.

"We cut off the current for safety purposes," said Ken-ichi Imaichi, a professor at Osaka University closely involved with the seven-year project to develop a vessel eventually able to cruise at up to 100 knots (115 mph).

The equipment on board the revolutionary new vessel, the first in the world to use superconducting magnetic coils as a means of propulsion, was extremely sensitive. Professor Imaichi said. The weather during the trials was severe. (AFP)

Iraq 'will try again for nuclear bomb'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE West was warned yesterday that it was only a matter of time before Iraq tried again to build a nuclear bomb. A tighter embargo and continuing inspections would be needed, Maurizio Zifferero, deputy director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said yesterday.

"For the time being our inspectors have cut the head off efforts to turn Iraq into a nuclear threat," he said. But, speaking in Rome where he is attending a conference on nuclear weapons, Mr Zifferero said Iraq still had a large supply of funds because of its oil wealth. "And its huge team of [nuclear] scientists is still in place," he added. "They have got the knowhow

and the people, so it is only a matter of time before they could try to make a bomb."

United Nations inspectors left Iraq this month after disabling part of its nuclear capability. Mr Zifferero hoped the destruction of suspected nuclear plants would be completed by August. The warning came as American intelligence agencies concluded in a confidential report that President Saddam Hussein was politically stronger than he was a year ago, despite economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation. According to Washington's latest intelligence assessment, reported in *The New York Times*, the Iraqi leader has begun to rebuild by obtaining goods from Jordan in violation of sanctions and by tapping into hidden reserves.

Despite the Washington report, Baghdad said yesterday that it had been forced to halt all domestic flights indefinitely because of a lack of spare parts caused by the UN sanctions. The official Iraqi news agency, INA, said the last two passenger flights still operating had been halted because maintenance could not be carried out on the planes. The agency quoted Nouredin al-Safi, director-general of Iraqi Airways, as saying: "No more spare parts are available for the planes in the country."

Under sanctions regulations, Iraq's air space is closed to international flights and Iraqi civilian aircraft are grounded, except for two flights daily between Baghdad and Basra, using Ilyushin transport aircraft.

Talks between UN and Iraqi officials on the possible lifting of the embargo on Iraq's oil exports are due to go ahead on Friday.

Caped crusader returns to rescue struggling Hollywood

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

Holy bat mania! Box office records are expected to be — Wham! — smashed this weekend when *Batman Returns*, the \$65 million (£35 million) sequel to the 1989 *Batman*, is released across America.

The world premiere last night at Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood was attended by such luminaries as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Bob Kane, the creator of the original 1940s comic book character. But *Batman* has come a long way since the days when Bat merchandise was limited to a toy batmobile and a stretch blue nylon *Batman* outfit.

The 1989 *Batman* brought in \$251 million at the box office, making it the sixth highest grossing film in history. But the real smiles at Warner Brothers came with the extra \$500 million generated by licensed *Batman* merchandise, from the official black-and-orange T-shirt to breakfast bat cereal.

The film stars Michelle Pfeiffer as a slinky and leather-clad Cat Woman with a fondness for whips and Danny DeVito as the villainous Penguin who spits black bile from his underground sewer. An animal rights group has protested at the use of real penguins in some scenes, claiming that the birds were likely to be frightened by the strange environment.

Batman himself is played by Michael Keaton. His mission is as much to rescue Gotham City from the forces of evil as to rescue Hollywood from the clutches of recent flops such as Steven Spielberg's *Hook*.

Stories are already cluttered with goods from Cat Woman night-dresses to *Batman* slippers. During the shooting Tim Burton, the director, became disgruntled at the stream of merchandising executives who dropped in every day to study the extravagant sets and characters for ideas for products. "I always felt when we were making this movie, the movie was just a slight inconvenience to everything else

that was going on," he said. Michael Keaton, paid an estimated \$10 million for his role as *Batman*, also admitted that being a cog in the *Batman* merchandising machinery could be demoralising. For the new film he is kitted out in a \$100,000 moulded rubber costume and is armed with an arsenal of weapons, including grappling hooks fired from a spear gun.

He's done more for our image than Christopher Lee



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A lister Carlyle, 33, a mechanical engineer with British Coal from Alloa in Scotland was at the front of the queue of Mann's Chinese Theatre yesterday to see Michael Keaton plunge his hands and feet into wet concrete on the Hollywood walk of fame. With the 30ft high *Batman* poster fluttering above him, Mr Carlyle said that he could not wait for the film to come out in Scotland and wanted to be able to tell his friends the story when he returned from holiday. "I think they'll be very impressed when I tell the boys at work. But they might not believe me when I tell them I saw the real *Batman*."

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

The US-Russian summit

Yeltsin seeks reform ally in Solzhenitsyn

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has telephoned Alexander Solzhenitsyn to express "repentance" over the way the Nobel laureate was treated by former Soviet regimes and urged him to return to the homeland from which he was exiled for anti-Soviet activities in 1978.

The Russian leader placed the emotional, 30-minute call to the author's Vermont retreat within hours of his arrival in Washington last night and told him, according to the president's spokesman, that "Russia's doors are wide open for his return".

Mr Yeltsin promised to do everything he could to ensure that Mr Solzhenitsyn, a Russian nationalist and "one of the great sons of our nation", worked for his people not from a foreign land but from within Russia. Mr Solzhenitsyn, who chronicled the iniquities of the Stalinist labour camps where he was himself incarcerated for eight years, still enjoys huge moral authority in Russia, and his support would be of considerable value to Mr Yeltsin in his struggle to dismantle the communist system.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, the spokesman, said the two men discussed the "targeted and painful problems" facing their country and Mr Solzhenitsyn wholeheartedly supported Mr Yeltsin's reform efforts. He urged particularly that Russia's peasants be given land of their own as soon as possible, and expressed concern about the fate of Russians living in other former Soviet republics.

Mr Yeltsin said that he was trying to restore Russia's spiritual values and that Mr Solzhenitsyn had "blazed a trail of truth" that he was seeking to follow. Unlike past regimes, he would tell the Russian people "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth". Russia has met the

principal condition Mr Solzhenitsyn set for his return by permitting the publication of his books, and the author has begun making preparations, though no date has yet been set. His wife, Natasha, recently returned to Moscow to explore the possibilities.

Mr Solzhenitsyn was dragged from his flat in Moscow's Gorky Street by KGB men in February 1974 and forced on to a plane to Frankfurt shortly after *The Gulag Archipelago*, his account of the Soviet labour camp system, was published in Paris. He was deprived of his Soviet citizenship.

His wife and three sons followed him into exile and they have since lived in conditions of extreme privacy on an estate in Cavendish, Vermont, hardly ever appearing in public.

Ten months after his exile, Mr Solzhenitsyn flew to Stockholm to collect the Nobel prize for literature that he had won four years earlier. All the communist bloc countries boycotted the ceremony.

● Moscow: Russia made one of its most demonstrative breaks with its Soviet past when it granted political asylum to a North Korean research student (Mary Dejevsky writes).

The student, Kim Man Tse, is studying physics at Moscow State University and had applied to stay in Russia, saying he wanted to become a Christian priest. Asylum was granted by a presidential decree signed by Mr Yeltsin just before he flew to the Washington summit with President Bush. Mr Kim, who has a wife and child in North Korea, had said that he would suffer persecution in his atheist homeland.

The North Korean ambassador in Moscow last night responded by accusing Russia of "harbouring criminals". He told the Tass news

agency that he had spent the morning discussing Mr Kim's fate at the Russian foreign ministry and Russian diplomats had "promised to decide the question in the spirit of international legal norms" and said nothing about the president's decree.

"In so far as Kim Man Tse is a criminal," the ambassador said, "he should be handed over to the North Korean authorities in accordance with the treaty on judicial assistance between our two countries. The fact that Russia has granted him political asylum proves that it protects criminals."

A statement issued by the North Korean leadership in Pyongyang and distributed in Moscow described Mr Kim as a "criminal who has committed serious criminal and economic crimes, not only in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but against North Korean citizens in Russia".

Leading article, page 15



Friendly sign: Mr Bush giving the thumbs-up as he greets Mr Yeltsin after both leaders delivered opening remarks at the White House yesterday

Weinberger may face Iran-Contra charges

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A LAWYER in Washington representing Caspar Weinberger, the former American defence secretary, said yesterday he had been told by a special prosecutor on the Iran-Contra case that his client would be indicted on criminal charges.

Robert Bennett, a defence lawyer, said he had been informed by Craig Gillen, an independent counsel, that prosecutors would ask a federal grand jury to return an indictment against Mr Weinberger. Mr Bennett said he did not know the charges that would be brought against him.

If indicted, Mr Weinberger would be the first member of the Reagan cabinet to be charged in the Iran-Contra special prosecutors' investigation into the scandal. It centred on the sale of weapons to Iran and the diversion of millions of dollars in profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels in 1985-6, despite a congressional ban on American military assistance.

Prosecutors have been investigating efforts by top Reagan aides to conceal the scandal from Congress. Mr Weinberger, defence sec-

tary from 1981 to 1987, was one of Mr Reagan's closest aides.

In another development, President Bush's older brother, Prescott Bush, has been named as a defendant in a \$2.5 million (£1.3 million) breach of contract suit filed in a federal court by a Japanese company that has been linked to mobsters in Japan, according to court papers.

West Tsusho Company, an investment firm that Japanese law enforcement officials claim is controlled by a Japanese organised crime figure, filed a suit in the district court in Manhattan last month. On Monday, a judge granted Mr Bush until June 25 to respond to the charges. The suit alleges that Mr Bush guaranteed \$2.5 million of a \$5 million investment by West Tsusho in a financial services company in 1989.

The company was Asset Management International Financing & Settlement Ltd, where Mr Bush was an adviser until he resigned two years ago. The firm paid \$500,000 in fees to Mr Bush for obtaining the \$5 million investment for it, according to the court papers.

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Barry Holmes, Partner

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Michelle Webster, Administration

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Industrial Information Index.
Melvyn Lebetkin, Director

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base, for which we charge them upfront membership and usage time. For smaller customers, whose usage is not great enough to charge an upfront fee, we have an 0891 NUMBER, which means they're accessing our information on a premium line. So instead of invoicing the customer, we earn our margin through BT.

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WATERGATE NOTEBOOK by Jamie Dettmer

Nixon dons the hero's mantle

History has a funny old way of turning the tables. Villains become heroes, the victors become the vanquished. Twenty years ago today a bungled burglary in the Democratic party headquarters on the sixth floor of Washington's Watergate complex led to the biggest constitutional crisis America has seen since the civil war. Within ten months, President Nixon had resigned. His main public pursuers, two young reporters from *The Washington Post*, became national heroes.

But today Mr Nixon has emerged from obloquy. He is regarded as an elder statesman whose views on foreign policy count. Last week Ross Perot, for instance, made a pilgrimage to the New Jersey home of the former president



Nixon: regarded as an elder statesman

to seek advice about foreign policy. In March before an audience containing Washington's intellectual elite, and George Bush, he gave a forceful case for Western aid to the former communist states.

But what of the "Woodstein" twins, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the *Post* reporters who followed the trail of the bugging operation at the Watergate complex all the way to the Nixon White House? Through the film *All the President's Men* they became the most famous journalists in the world. Now their star does not shine so brightly.

Woodward, 49, holds a top management job at the *Post* and has written a series of best-selling books, but his methods have been

questioned and critics say that he relies overmuch on unnamed sources for some of his more extravagant claims.

And Bernstein? He has spent more time in newspaper columns - gossip ones - than writing them. In the 1980s he haunted his many affairs, including one with the wife of a British ambassador. He is still a noted wild partygoer. Recently Bernstein, 48, wrote an article complaining how reporting in America is "distorted by celebrity and the worship of celebrity". No one has noticed Bernstein forgoing the benefits of stardom.

In 1990, *Time* magazine signed him up for \$100,000 (£55,000). In the first 12 months he only wrote five articles. *Time* did not renew the contract.

American newspapers are full of Watergate anniversary material. The *Post* has had a field day reminiscing about its finest hour. Ben Bradlee, the paper's vice-president, even went off to Moscow last week to doorstep Mr Nixon, who was visiting Russia, and to ask him one of the last main unanswered questions of the whole affair: what did he know, and when did he know, in Senator Howard Baker's famous phrase, what his dirty tricks department, nicknamed the plumbers, was up to? Mr Bradlee did not show the persistence the Woodstein twins did in breaking the original story. After 90 minutes standing in the rain in Red Square and no Mr Nixon, the *Post* vice-president wandered off, left only with his memories.

The Linda Lovelace portrait film *Deep Throat* got an added boost from Watergate. The Woodstein twins used the film's title as the code name for their main anonymous establishment source. Trying to guess the identity of *Deep Throat* still passes for a dinner party game among older Washington hands. The game has taken on an added sharpness since the publication recently of a book that claims that General Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State, was in fact the ultra-secret source. General Haig has denied the claim.



Forms UK plc.
Colin Davies, Chief Executive Officer

"ELECTRONIC MAIL IS WHERE THE FUTURE IS - the distribution of information to everyone's desk. We use it very effectively - to the factory, suppliers and so on, which saves us having to type it out, send it out, photocopy and distribute it manually. Over a year, that's a lot of time and money saved."



Lyndoe Holdings plc.
Mikal Lyndoe, Chief Executive Officer

"We use the fax to encourage prompt payment, and we find that people pay faster than their standard terms of business. We've got it down to about 21 days, instead of the normal 60.

Our method is to increase the size of the type with each successive fax. We start at around 24 point, which grabs attention. If it doesn't work first time we fax again in BIG BOLD LETTERS that there is still an

outstanding amount to pay - and usually that's sufficient to do the trick."



Midland Management Services.
Malcolm Jones, General Manager

"In our business it's vital to generate new work all the time, to keep the cash coming in. If potential customers can't get through to the right person straight away, they may go elsewhere, and that could be next month's cash flow down the drain. Call diversion is the answer. With call diversion you're ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO TAKE AN ORDER, to keep the money flowing the next quarter."



The Home Service.
Sharon Baxter, Sole Trader

"Two of our people work from home, using purely the telephone. It isn't just selling - they also research the market, process orders, and chase payment. Obviously, WORKING FROM HOME HELPS OUR CASHFLOW by saving on office overheads. It also suits our people, who can make calls and generate

How to write a dirty novel

Philip Howard asks if formula sex or great literature is the more erotic

The obscene genie has escaped from its bottle. The secret of how to write dirty books, which has obsessively exercised the filthiest minds in Western literature from Marlowe to Henry Miller, has been spilled in cook-book detail by a professional who makes his living from commissioning them. He is Mr Peter Darvill-Evans, publisher of the Nexus imprint, which is part of Richard Branson's Virgin Publishing. Until news of his latest venture got out, Mr Branson was more famous for schoolboy puns, a clean (though bearded) image than for publishing bespoke pornography.

According to Mr Darvill-Evans, sex books crafted for women are one of the few growth areas in the depressed book-selling market. Virgin's guide to writing them, which is being circulated to potential authors and agents, is quite as specific as Delia Smith giving weights and measures for her recipes.

In his apology for his profession, Mr Darvill-Evans writes: "I don't want to sound pompous or pretentious, but to some extent this is a campaign against censorship and for choice. Setting up an erotica imprint for women is a step in the right direction of freedom and sexual equality. Sex is surely a good thing. People like doing it. They like reading about it."

As the librarian said to the book-borrower: "It's not a dirty book, it's an earthy book, which is a very different thing." The Virgin guide lists simple rules for would-be authors. "There are limits to what is acceptable, but they are broad-based. All clinical and slang terms for parts of the body and sexual acts are permissible [sic]. Nothing is forbidden. However, bear in mind that obscene words lose their impact if used repeatedly." Writers are told that there must be "as much varied and exciting sex as possible", and the guide is similarly prescriptive about style: "Don't be tempted to write a literary masterpiece. Our readers want a sexy story. What keeps the Nexus reader turning the pages is the next 'dirty bit', and 'more plot means less room for sex'."

A specimen of the ideal plot is given from a recent Nexus novel: "A naive peasant girl is plunged into danger and uncertainty when sold into slavery — and frequent bondage and chastisement. She discovers her true sexual nature and wins the love of the prince." "Adult" King Cophetua and the beggar-maid, in fact.

This new genre of Virgin sex for women flies in the face of previous received publishing wisdom, which was that women were more interested in relationships and love than manuals about the nuts and bolts below the navel. Dirty books were for inadequate men who had not grown up. In their famous judgment of 1972, two high court judges ruled that dirty old men were incapable of being

any further corrupted, and therefore as long as they made up the majority of regular customers, a bookseller was not breaking the law in selling dirty books to them. A women reading pornography used to be considered anomalous.

The Virgin guidelines deal with the different attitudes to sex of men and women. Authors are advised that in sexual matters, women are narcissistic: "While heterosexual men are not interested in sexual descriptions of their own gender, women are — we think — turned on by descriptions of women being turned on."

One woman's dirty book is another woman's turgid tome is another woman's literary masterpiece. "At last, an unprintable book that is readable," said Ezra Pound of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. It is one soundly based statistic in market research that women are greater readers than men of romantic fiction at all levels. If this new wave of dirty books for women takes off, they are going to find out that pornography is such a tiny territory that a single visit covers it completely. Repeated books, even when mixed with shopping, become very boring to read about.

Intelligent readers, whatever their sex, discover — usually at puberty — that the imagination is far more potent than the violent little words used to describe the acts of love on lavatory walls and in banking books. A detailed account of what goes on in the back of the carriage would destroy the ageless spell cast by Emma Bovary. Great writers — from Catullus to Goethe, or Henry James to Colette and Alberto Moravia — can express a far thicker sexual atmosphere by indirections and omissions than all the nuts-and-bolts of dirty books which treat sex like an automobile service. Words are more erotic than pictures, because they exercise the imagination, where the important part of sex takes place.

Down the ages, some of the greatest works of literature have been deemed to be dirty books by those who think that the mechanics of the way they arrived in the world is dirty rather than miraculous. It is not compulsory to think of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as first-class literature, but from Ovid to Boccaccio to James Joyce, and from Shakespeare to *Clarissa* to Graham Greene, books have been banned for exploring one of the most important aspects of the human condition with style and wit and imagination.

Perhaps dirty books for women will attract a throbbing, pulsating crowd of would-be scribes and readers, thrusting into the steaming no-man's-land of the publishing industry, until with a gigantic, soul-searching, heart-stopping series of eruptions, the latest gimmick will be over. And the crowd will have a cigarette, and move on to the next trick. But then I wouldn't bet on it.

Intelligent people find that imagination is far more potent than reading those violent little words

Joanna Pitman doubts if Japan's martial spirit will be rekindled by letting its army go abroad

Tiring of its villainous post cold-war image as the world's richest parasite, enjoying the fruits of peace while carefully burying its head at the hint of an international crisis, Japan enacted a momentous piece of legislation on Monday. For the first time since the second world war, this will allow the dispatch of troops overseas, to take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The law, which was passed after almost two years of tortuous debate in the Diet (Japan's parliament), is a public relations victory for the country. Prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa has lost no time issuing grand statements about Japan's new heavyweight status in global geopolitics, trumpeting that a philanthropic Tokyo will now play a leading role in international cooperation and the maintenance of world peace. Japan, he claims, has grown up and is ready to shoulder its share of the global burden alongside its rich partners, in working towards common humanitarian goals. Close scrutiny of the motives behind Japan's noble new stance, however, reveals the familiar mixture of foreign pressure and national economic interests.

Profits from pacifism

The notion that the conqueror of economic markets the world over should pull its weight and participate in financially unrewarding UN peacekeeping operations was originally forced upon the nation's timid and parochial political fraternity during the Gulf war. This oil-importing country's tardy and apparently reluctant response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had triggered bitter criticism from the United States and its allies, all of which rank among Tokyo's most highly prized trading partners.

That bungle cost Japan dearly, as the coalition partners extracted a financial contribution of \$13 billion, more than the combined commitments of America, Britain and Germany. But the cost in international goodwill was probably greater. Japan's international businessmen, traditionally the eyes and ears of the government overseas, quickly and correctly interpreted the allies' disaffection as the harbinger of heightened economic friction.

Wary of its ballooning trade surpluses — which today top \$50 billion with America and \$30 billion with the EC — the government devised the peacekeeping operations initiative as a way both to mollify its critics and to avoid excessive expenditure during the next crisis.

Japan's Western allies may now be effectively placated, but the peacekeeping issue has opened old wounds closer to home. Memories of Japanese troops marauding through Asia during the 1930s and early 1940s are still uncomfortably fresh on the Asian continent. The prospect of a new deployment in the 1990s by Japan, the world's second biggest military spender, has provoked a chorus of opposition from forthright Asian governments.

Lee Kuan Yew, the leader of Singapore, where more than 40,000 were killed by Japanese troops during the war, says allowing the Japanese military to serve abroad again would be like giving liqueur chocolates to an alcoholic.

Singapore and its neighbours would far rather see more of Japan's economic troops, its bankers and businessmen, than a new wave of its battleships and bazookas, albeit friendly ones. Japan has every reason to nurture the goodwill of its Asian neighbours, to allow a continued expansion of its network of factories that already extends from Southern China to Indonesia.

Given that south-east Asia is forecast to have the world's highest economic growth rates for the next four decades and is already superceding the United States as Japan's principal export market, Japan's interests must be closely linked to those of continental Asia.

So, cornered by demands from an irate America to legislate to permit overseas deployment of troops, Japan has devised a compromise to appease both its strategically important Asian partners and America. Spending 20 months in heated debate over the form of the bill, opposition politicians have managed to weave in so

many checks and balances that Japan's peacekeeping force has emerged innocuous, and with its role strictly circumscribed.

The force, which is limited to a maximum of 2,000 troops, will be unable to monitor ceasefire agreements, remove landmines or disarm warring factions unless the Diet first ends a freeze on deployments and approves sending troops to a region of conflict.

Judged on past performances in the Diet, approval could well require years of agonisingly slow debate, with plenty more opportunities for the socialist opposition to perform their "ox-walk", a peculiarly petulant attempt to sabotage voting procedures by shuffling at a snail's pace towards the ballot box. Japan's celebrated new troops will be hard pressed to arrive before any war has been dealt with by other, more willing soldiers, and not a single drop of Japanese blood will be shed.

This, of course, is precisely what the Japanese had in mind as the cheapest and most domestically acceptable option if forced into adopting a conventional foreign policy. The next international alarm-call will show that Japan's grand claim to be a leading world peacemaker is a sham.

Capitalist society has annexed hippiedom, says Bryan Appleyard

I am indebted to *The Whole Person Catalogue* (Brainwave, £14.95) for the news that as the midsummer dawn breaks over Stonehenge on Sunday, New Age travellers will key themselves in to the natural rhythms, celebrate the festival of woman, the apogee of light, the turning of the great wheel of the seasons towards winter and the ancient certainty that everything flows, nothing is static. The catalogue does not mention that they might equally well indulge in the more recent tradition of a dust-up with the Wiltshire police. Or may well not turn up at all, in the conviction that the sacred site has been neutralised, transformed from druid temple and stone age telescope into "national heritage".

This sort of event — like last month's confrontation with the travellers at the Malvern Hills — always produces a good deal of dull anti-industrialist dogma, access and the invariability or otherwise of common land and ancient monuments.

But these travellers are the shabby, unrespectable bit of a very large iceberg. For New Ageism, though it defies precise definition, is probably now the fastest growing faith in the West. Soon, it is estimated, 25 per cent of Americans will admit to some degree of New Ageism. Marketing — particularly in fields like cosmetics, beauty and health care — is riddled with it. All big bookshops now have New Age sections, with sub-categories like tarot, crystals, shamanism, reincarnation and so on. And, most bizarre of all, the New Age has been embraced by international capitalism.

Dr John Drane of Strirling University has studied the phenomenon and says that most multinational companies — he mentions BT, IBM and BP — have now adopted New Age manage-

ment training techniques. Typically, such techniques involve teaching employees how to get in touch with their "inner selves" and their "spiritual roots". This may lead to weird back-to-nature exercises, or to sitting under pyramids and tuning into the spiritual dynamics of crystals.

The use of such techniques began, predictably enough, in America. There Russell Ackoff, a management consultant, has decided that Christianity lies at the root of everything that is wrong with the capitalist enterprise, and that what managers need is a new conception of a "holistic god" if they really want to improve their bottom lines. All this is opposed by fundamentalist Christians, who have identified the movement as a demonic conspiracy. Since Drane has talked to American satanists who say that this is indeed the case, perhaps the fundamentalists have a point for once. Either way, it is clear that the New Age is right there in the boardrooms and the business schools. But what is it?

The New Age itself, says the catalogue, is "as profound and all-encompassing a movement as the European Renaissance of 500 years ago". In essence, it appears to be the belief that the scientific-materialistic-mechanistic era is coming to an end, and that humanity is "progressing into a time of greater spirituality and world harmony". Christianity and most other distinctive Western traditions are associated with the materialist waste land into which we are said to have strayed. Anything from the Orient is automatically included.

Most people have some sympathy with some of this. Environmentalists are New Agers of one type, and some Christians — including the last Archbishop of Canterbury — have spoken of the spiritual power of the idea. Rich, liberal societies certainly have a problem, and solving it may be the most important task we face. But to imagine that a

solution can be found in this carnival of psychobabble and dim-witted meandering is madness.

The message to be gleaned from this catalogue and from other New Age literature has nothing to do with spirituality and harmony, and everything to do with the most egregious narcissism. Every technique, every therapy, every growth counselling session encourages the belief that the only way forward is to pamper, analyse and neurotically fixate upon ourselves. Spirituality seems to these people to be no more than a morbid fascination with one's private feelings at the expense of all else.

Confronted with this, Christians may well be alarmed. For far from being a benign and companionable form of spirituality, much New Age thinking is an explicit assault on the self-denying heart of Western religion.

Whether everybody should be alarmed is another matter. New Ageism may well fade like any other cult. But its strength lies in its flabby plurality, the way it

unquestioningly embraces every idea, however crazy, and then flaunts it as the symptom of the dawning of a new era. This explains why it has survived the 1960s and has been able to expand its empire into otherwise respectable areas. By saying nothing clearly, it becomes all things to all men. By making no demands, it wins easy converts — hippie values, says one sceptic, for a yuppie lifestyle.

This probably does little harm to the average dabbbling adolescent, but one cannot help worrying about all those managers, hotshot business consultants and civil servants. Coercing employees to work harder is one thing; coercing them to explore their inner selves and to sit under pyramids or read the *I Ching* is quite another. Anybody offered such stuff at work should laugh and resist, explaining perhaps that they have a shamanistic sweat lodge meeting that very night, and that one should never exceed the stated dose.

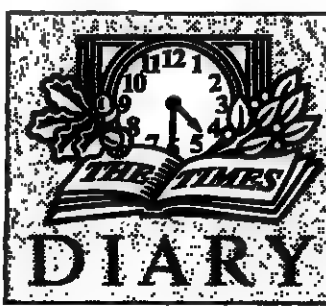
That man again

HAVING relinquished the chance of a role on the European political stage, Neil Kinnock is turning his attention to planning a new career as a broadcaster. He is understood to have received an informal approach from the BBC about the possibility of a series of programmes when he stands down as Leader of the Opposition next month. It is said the programmes would have little to do with politics.

Since the election, Kinnock has discovered that there is more to life than the NEC and shadow cabinet meetings, and has been seen more and more often at the theatre and cinema. Even before he withdrew his nomination for the presidency of the Confederation of European Socialist Parties this week, he had told friends he would like a role in the media, sections of which he bitterly attacked after his second election defeat. The BBC refuses to comment on the discussions, which, according to other sources, are still at the preliminary stage.

Some of those who may in future find themselves colleagues of Kinnock were yesterday astonished at the prospect. Gloria Hunniford said: "Neil Kinnock can stand in on my Radio 2 show any day. He is never short of a word, and as he is a Welshman I know he loves the sort of music we play."

Judith Chalmers, who hosts the ITV holiday programme *Wish You Were Here*, was intrigued by the idea, and thought she might also be able to put some work the way of the Labour leader. "Neil Kinnock has got the gift of the gab, although I wonder if he can control it. Jeffrey Archer presented an item for me from Cambridgeshire. Perhaps Neil Kin-



nock could do one from the Welsh valleys. Yes, I think we could definitely use him. As long as it was only once. But I think he would make a smashing host for *Songs of Praise*."

● Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's EC commissioner, was voting with his stomach this week. On Monday he was to be seen eating herrings at the Nordica restaurant in Brussels. And what is Nordica? Why, the only Danish restaurant in town, of course.

Ici on parle français

WHILE reports persist that the cabinet remains divided over Maastricht, Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, is spending her every spare moment becoming a better European. Shepherd, who studied languages at Oxford, is brushing up her French with a private tutor in London. "She is extremely good at French anyway," confirms Dr Elizabeth Cottrell, Shepherd's special adviser. "She is so fluent on the phone that I find my accent is improving by association."

Shepherd faces her toughest linguistic test in Luxembourg later this month, when she is due to hold private talks with the French labour minister, Marlene Aubry — better known as the daughter of the beleaguered Jacques Delors.

offer applies only if the trip coincides with the rival English attractions of Ascot, Wimbledon, Henley or Goodwood. "We believe our transatlantic guests will appreciate a day off from all that dressing up and living it up," says Brian Mills of Cunard Hotels. "They may care to whoop it up instead." Surely they could stay home for that?

Hanging too good?

ALTHOUGH now known to have been one of the crooks of the century, Robert Maxwell is still commemorated by a photograph on one of Westminster's best-known walls. The picture of a beaming Maxwell flanked by Jeremy Thorpe and Sir Edward Heath

uncharacteristically clutching a pint, still has pride of place in Annie's Bar, a favourite haunt of, among others, Kenneth Clarke and David Mellor.

The photograph has hung in the bar since 1968, but MPs are now calling for it to be removed as "inappropriate".

Despite the presence of the two party leaders, the features of backbencher Maxwell — then chairman of the Commons catering committee — naturally dominate the picture. Heath, who has not set foot in the bar for many years, said yesterday: "I don't remember it at all. I did not know it was there."

Even though it is the only picture of the former prime minister hanging in Westminster, Heath has no hesitation in saying it is time it was removed. "It would be a jolly good thing if they take it down. Preferably today."

Colin Shepherd, the Tory MP who now chairs the Commons catering committee, was also unaware of its presence. "Obviously I will consider any requests to remove it," he says. "But as it is in a bar where both MPs and the press drink, perhaps it is appropriate it should remain. We could add a few others and turn it into a rogues gallery."

● Just as policemen get younger, what counts as archaeology grows ever more recent. In the week of the 25th anniversary of Sgt Pepper, the York Archaeological Trust has opened an exhibition entitled "The Beatles: The Tangible Evidence". Did the Fab Four ever really exist, or were they figments of our psychedelic imaginations? Among the archaeological proof on display are what are alleged to be the toenail clippings of John Lennon and Yoko Ono, from their televised "bed-in" at the Amsterdam Hilton in 1971.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

If we accept Samuel Johnson's criterion that metaphysical poetry consists of heterogeneous ideas yoked by violence together, then we should place the laurel on the men from Ulverscroft Road. To them, things are easier said than done. We may not mind, be able to place that laurel. It may be stuck to our fingers. Even if it is not stuck to our fingers, it may end up stuck to the brows of the men from Ulverscroft Road. Should that happen, however, they will not panic. They will not attempt to pull the skin apart. They will use their Skin Release Agent, following instructions carefully. They may also flush with lots of cold water and seek medical advice.

I know this is what they will do, because that is what their packaging advises us to do, even if we may not have as much Skin Release Agent around as they have at Ulverscroft Road. For that is where they make not only Skin Release Agent, but also the Bostik Superglue which, under certain circumstances (say 89 per cent), creates the situation for which Skin Release Agent was put on this earth.

But the packaging literature does not stop there, since although the tube of Superglue itself is tiny, its packaging is huge, crammed with fine print describing all the fine things which Bostik is up to. There is, for example, a Seal Appeal on it, which explains that Bostik is helping the RSPCA raise funds for a seal hospital, and you do not have to be a metaphysician

to spot a hidden agenda there, you have only to be a sceptic who has frequently glued his fingers to teapot and chair-leg and is thus in a position to suss out why Seal Appeal should be a slogan that commended itself to Bostik's PR department. Not that the risk of semantic backfire has been entirely avoided: at first glance, it struck me that a seal hospital might be a place people went who had inadvertently sealed themselves to things and been forced to seek medical advice. Even at second glance, when I noticed the RSPCA involvement, I couldn't be sure that a seal hospital wasn't somewhere seals were taken after they had got glued to things, as the result of open Bostik tubes having been incautiously jetsamned upon our horrible beaches.

These, though, are not the paradoxes I meant, they are just those serendipitous by-blows foregather. If you seek a true example of heterogeneous ideas yoked by violence (and who better to handle such gumming challenges than Bostik?), try this: start by breaking a teacup, and you could end by breaking 147.

Enter, to me, Stephen Hendry. I am standing by the Sunday sink, having successfully Bostik a teacup-handle to my thumb, and I am flushing the assembly with lots of cold water, when the eye that has followed these packaging instructions is caught by the smiling face of the great snookerist. I read on, to

discover that if I collect three stars from Bostik products and send them to Ulverscroft Road, I will receive a £1 cheque signed, for some reason, by Stephen. Better yet, I will also qualify to enter a contest in which, if I list the ten qualities required by a World Snooker Champion and complete the sentence "I would like to win £100,000 with Bostik because...", that is what I shall win.

But I do not want to win. Apart from the fact that I do not trust a Bostik cheque to detach itself from my fingers, worse, I could wind up permanently attached to the bank counter at which I attempted to present it, what I want is to be one of the ten winners-up. I want this because their prize is a luxury weekend for two at Armaniwhitew Hall, leisure lodge of Lakeland, where the highlight will be snooker lessons from Stephen.

Imagine A weekend with nine other couples whose only common bond is their use of Superglue. Possibly literally: a man glued to his wife, perhaps, another, even better, to his mistress, but even if not, what harrowing tales we shall all have to tell of the day we shaved the dog to get our hand back, or the night we spent attached to the garage door.

Did this occur to them, at Ulverscroft Road? Of course not, for they are poets, preoccupied only with yoking heterogeneous ideas together.

They do not know about what we know about: yoking apart.



TOO TALENTED



YELTSIN'S FREE MARKET

President Yeltsin could have given no surer sign of his commitment to free market reform than his appointment of Yegor Gaidar as acting prime minister. Defying the growing pressure from conservatives and worried industrial bosses to slow down the breakneck pace of Mr Gaidar's reform programme, the Russian leader reassured the West on the eve of his Washington summit that he has neither lost his nerve nor retreated to old-style centralist planning.

To reinforce the message, Mr Yeltsin issued six decrees outlining the second stage of the reform programme, to come into effect by July 1, the date on which Russia has bravely decided to float the rouble on the open market. The decrees give more rights to private companies, improve the collection of state revenue, and threaten enforced bankruptcy auctions for inefficient state enterprises which are unable to survive on their own or pay their debts within three months.

All this will be warmly welcomed by Western governments and by the International Monetary Fund. But that does not mean Mr Yeltsin's talks in Washington on economic aid will be smooth or that the IMF will find him an easy negotiating partner. He has repeatedly said that Russia will not bow to the prescriptions of the IMF. His government has dragged its feet on the liberalisation of energy prices, and a strong heavy industry lobby is now accusing the Gaidar team of selling out to the West.

Unlike Third World leaders who use the pretext of IMF guidelines to carry out unpopular austerity measures, Mr Yeltsin cannot argue that he is being forced by world pressure to introduce his reforms. That would only give more ammunition to the nationalists who argue that Moscow should return to autarkic defiance of the West.

Mr Yeltsin is negotiating from a position of weakness. He needs agreement on a \$4 billion loan by next month if his ambitious targets are to be met, and has to secure endorsement by the IMF of a package that

would enable Russia to use a promised \$6 billion stabilisation to peg the rouble on the foreign exchange markets. The IMF is holding out for tough conditions — on the use of its money for reserves, on Russia's responsibility for the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union, and on monetary co-operation with the other republics now proposing to introduce their own currencies.

Unless his talks in Washington go well, he will find a sour atmosphere in Munich next month when he has to talk with all the G7 industrialised nations. Neither in Washington nor in Munich can Mr Yeltsin afford the impression that he is a suppliant, cap in hand. That widespread perception of Mr Gorbachev last year further undermined his support at home.

The IMF cannot simply impose the same conditions it normally lays down for Third World countries. Rescuing the Russian economy is a *sui generis* operation, by far the biggest the world body has ever undertaken. The normal criteria are still valid: tight money, the abolition of subsidies, an end to monopolies, a reduction of budget deficits, privatisation and liberalisation of markets. The Gaidar government is indeed trying to achieve all this, and Mr Yeltsin may privately be as eager as anyone to press ahead. But he knows the political constraints on him, and is ever aware of the social cataclysm that drastic reform threatens to unleash.

The IMF in turn must beware of over-extending itself in Russia. So huge are the sums needed that the organisation could find itself left without enough funds for other parts of the world. The West has at last committed itself, after a year of dithering which matched the vacillation of promised but unfulfilled reform under Mr Gorbachev. Now the two sides are arguing about figures and terms of engagement. The argument will continue in Munich. In the end, however, Russia has to save itself. With Mr Gaidar and his team confirmed at the helm, it has a chance.

HIGHLY CHARGED PROFITS

One of the great complaints levelled at nationalised industries is that their business decisions are liable to be swayed by political considerations. After privatisation, has the political ghost been laid? Alas, past political pressures continue to haunt privatised companies, as witnessed by the recent results of the electricity distributors.

Yesterday Norweb announced a near-doubling of its profits, from £70 million to £138 million, in the middle of the worst recession since the 1930s. The previous day, East Midlands Electricity reported a 41 per cent increase. More will follow, and public and political indignation will mount. Some will be manufactured. But much will be deserved, since the profit rises are due at least partly to the government's desire, in December 1990, to have a successful stock market flotation when a general election might have been imminent. Electricity consumers are still paying the price.

The electricity companies, both generators and distributors, were bound to be able to make huge profit increases in their first few years. In the public sector, all had been grossly overmanned and throttled by restrictive practices. It is relatively easy to save money in the first few years after privatisation, simply by pruning unnecessary staff. National Power, for instance, used to employ 17,000 people at the beginning of 1990. By next March it expects to be able to generate the same amount of electricity with fewer than 9,000 on its payroll.

In a normal private-sector company in a competitive market, the profit generated from such cost savings would be passed on to both shareholders and customers. Competition would ensure that shareholders would not be able to pocket the lot, since rivals would cut prices and therefore win business from any company not prepared to pass on savings. In the case of monopolies such as electricity distributors, it is the job of the regulator — in this case, Stephen

Littlechild of Ofwat — to impose the discipline that competition would have enforced.

Yet the price of electricity to domestic consumers rose this year by only a couple of points less than the inflation rate. Shareholders are taking a disproportionate share of the windfall. Electricity companies do not have the excuse of the water companies, which can at least argue that huge investment has to be made to improve water quality. Electricity is electricity. The distributors' capital spending needs are negligible. Why then cannot Ofwat insist that customers are better served?

The answer is that Professor Littlechild has been saddled with a regulatory structure that gives him too little power. It was this that made the distribution companies very attractive to shareholders and ensured that the stock market flotation was many times oversubscribed. The government cannot now go back on its word to shareholders and intervene, say, through a special levy. Professor Littlechild, meanwhile, does not plan to review the price structure until 1994. Even then, the new price caps have to be agreed with the industry.

But if Professor Littlechild lacks the legal powers to enforce sensible charges on the electricity companies, he can at least use moral suasion. His counterpart at Ofwat, Ian Byatt, managed to persuade the water companies last year to cut their prices by more than the formula decreed. Otherwise, members of the public, electricity consumers all, may reflect that they are being made to suffer for a political mistake, just as billions of pounds of their money was used to mitigate the disastrous effects of the poll tax.

By the turn of the century, domestic consumers will have a choice of electricity suppliers, and this should produce fairer prices. But in the meantime, Professor Littlechild must embark rapidly on his review. He needs power enough to make the sparks fly.

TOO TALENTED TO RETIRE

Nell Kinnock reacted with typical resilience to what appears to have been his somewhat churlish treatment at the hand of the *Confederation of European Socialist Parties*. He gracefully withdrew his nomination for the presidency of that body when it seemed likely to run into difficulty. One consequence is that his fellow social democratic leaders in the European Community are left with the formidable task of finding someone of similar distinction to fill an influential, if hardly a powerful, position.

But his disappointment, however bravely carried off, also leaves Mr Kinnock with a predicament. At the age of 50 he will, in a month's time, become the youngest ex-leader of a major party since Lord Rosebery nearly a century ago. If not in a full and active political life in the House of Commons, how is he to spend the next 15 or 20 years?

Mr Kinnock is not the first frontline politician to confront this dilemma, though his predecessors have tended to be more fortunate. Arthur James Balfour survived at the top of politics, holding three successive cabinet posts after he was forced to resign from the Tory leadership in 1911. In more recent times, Sir Alec Douglas-Home also enjoyed an Indian summer as foreign secretary after losing first the prime ministership and then the Opposition leadership. Such precedents, though, depend on the success of a party in swiftly returning to office. They can offer little immediate comfort to Mr Kinnock. With the awful warning of the local years of Sir Edward Heath before his eyes, he must hope to be able to find some public stage more dignified than that of a television chat show.

The rewards of returning to the Labour party's national executive as an elected member for the constituency section hardly promise to be long-lasting. Mr Kinnock was never pre-eminently a Commons politician, even in his heyday. What he needs is some new arena in which to put both his abilities and experience to good use. Fortunately at least one such forum (and one in which Mr Kinnock has already shown an indirect interest) does exist.

Britain has a thoroughly depressing record in the quality and eminence of the individuals it has traditionally sent to the European Parliament. Until now only Barbara Castle, as a leading member of the Labour party, has carried a torch for the kind of British socialism that sees its future as operating across national boundaries — and this, despite continental socialist parties having specialised in sending to Strasbourg some of their most distinguished figures. That could all now be changed by the power of one man's example.

Having knocked gingerly at the back door in Brussels, Mr Kinnock could do a great deal worse than to think seriously about marching boldly up to the front door in Strasbourg. True, the next European elections are not due until 1994 and the Labour party will be hard put to defend the big gains it made in Mrs Thatcher's ill-fated anti-Brussels campaign of 1989. That is all the more reason for Mr Kinnock to make up his mind now to lend the contest a much greater significance and interest than it would otherwise have. He is too engaging and able a politician simply to linger in the Westminster Greenroom once the show is over.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Hooligans as part of English culture

From Dr John Rae

Sir, Before others rush in with solutions to the problem of English hooliganism, may I suggest that we ask ourselves a more fundamental question. Are the hooligans in Malmö (report, June 15) really an unrepresentative minority, or is their behaviour as much part of English culture as Trooping the Colour and cricket on the village green?

It suits us to characterise them as a minority who do not reflect the true values of our society. I recall that as a headmaster, I used the same argument. Pupils who vandalised the changing room at another school could not possibly be typical; they had to be described as an unrepresentative minority who had let the school down.

Yet any headmaster knows, unless he is given to self-deception, that hooligan pupils are not a discrete group: their behaviour reflects something in the culture of the school.

There may be a case for removing passports of known troublemakers and for banning alcohol, but we should not fool ourselves that we are dealing with the underlying cause. Alcohol is a convenient scapegoat, but an unconvincing one. It does not cause the football fans of other countries to run amok.

Could it be that there is something in the English, not in the alcohol, that results in violent aggression?

We also find it convenient to see hooliganism as a working-class phenomenon, forgetting that undergraduates at the more fashionable universities have often behaved in a similar manner.

Fathers pass on to their sons stories of how they charged the gates of a ladies college or destroyed a café on the university's rugby tour of France. The torch of middle-class hooliganism was passed from one generation to another.

None of which means that we should condone what happened in Malmö or fail to take steps to prevent it happening again. But perhaps it is time we asked ourselves what it is in our culture that makes the English potentially such a bellicose and anarchic people.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAE,
Director,
The Portman Group,
22 Wimpole Street, W1,
June 15.

Sistine restoration

From Mr J. A. Fidler and Mr Jan Kevill

Sir, Mr Daley of Artwatch International (letter, June 5) should be as accurate in his choice of phraseology as he desires conservators to be in their cleaning and preservation of works of art. Otherwise he is in danger of maligning perfectly viable conservation materials and techniques when it is their misapplication that causes controversy and catastrophe.

We believe your readers deserve clearer information on the solvent AB57, which is not, in our view, a "controversial cleaning agent". The material was developed at the Istituto Centrale dei Restauri in Rome and pioneered by the eminent conservators, Paolo and Laura Mora. Its constituent parts can be mixed in various proportions or omitted altogether with a range of consequences for its efficacy dependent on substrate, soiling and surface chemistry.

Its qualities are dependent on local climatic conditions, its composition as applied and the "dwell time" on the subject material being cleaned. The suitability of one AB57 recipe over another is a matter for professional judgment and skill based on these factors and on the sensitivity of the artefact being conserved. The material itself is innocent.

Yours etc.,
J. A. FIDLER
(Head of architectural conservation),
JAN KEVILL
(Head of painting conservation),
English Heritage,
Keystone House,
429 Oxford Street, W1,
June 12.

Miscarriages of justice

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, The forthright and unequivocal manner in which the three judges gave their reasons for allowing the Judith Ward appeal (report, June 5) together with the glacial policy of the new Lord Chief Justice, are the most hopeful signs yet that the judiciary have at last recognised and come to terms with the corruption that has disfigured so many of our criminal trials.

The stables however are only partially cleansed. If, say, only 1 per cent of all current convictions were false, this would mean that some 400 people are still in prison who ought not to be there. The National Association of Probation Officers thinks the figure could be as high as 700; and from the letters I have received in recent years I would not want to challenge it.

The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is not due to report until next year. Meanwhile the time has surely come for the home secretary to **Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.**

Maastricht: a treaty intact, in tatters, or still in play?

From Mr Christopher Jackson, MEP for Kent East (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, For much of the British press and many politicians too, matters associated with the EC — the Commission, Jacques Delors, "federalism", other member states and so on — have provided a huge range of convenient Aunt Sallys that can be impugned without risk of response. Criticism has often been overstated, facts have been distorted, and above all positive aspects and successes have been ignored. Your helpful article by Michael Dynes (Life & Times, June 9) gave some examples.

Is it surprising, then, in an atmosphere in which the Commission and its president are derided so freely and in such an unbalanced way, that when the time comes to adjust the treaties there is an atmosphere of suspicion?

Maastricht will not be the last change to the EC constitution, and the Danish reaction — albeit now regretted by many in Denmark itself — shows that governments all over the EC have a harder road to follow in future.

John Major's judgment is that it is in Britain's long-term interests to be "at the centre of Europe" and to bring the Maastricht treaty into effect. I know of no Conservative MEP who does not fully support that judgment.

However, governments, including our own, can no longer afford to sit back and allow the EC institutions to be the unprotected butt of half truth or unbalanced comment. If so, they put at risk the basis of confidence on which they depend when, as with the Maastricht treaty, a complex negotiation comes to be approved.

To avoid this most serious danger governments will have to take active steps to ensure their citizens enjoy a more balanced appreciation of the EC, even to the extent of defending the EC institutions in which we share.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
8 Wellmead Drive,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Sir Guy Millard

Sir, Sir Nicholas Henderson's five points (letter, June 12) do not amount to much more than saying that Maastricht must be a good thing because it carried the Treaty of Rome a stage further.

Some 35 years ago, when I worked on this subject in a minor capacity under the late Reginald Maudling, the Foreign Office were saying that we could never join the European Community. They were told so by the

Treasury and the Board of Trade, and they believed it. The alternative was supposed to be the European Free Trade Area. I was one of the very few who disagreed. Now they seem to be born-again federalists.

There is no particular merit in the fact that Maastricht does not speak of federalism. No one knows what that word means, but if it means what we think it does, who wanted it anyway?

As for security and foreign policy, Nato is enough for our security. Let us keep it, in the face of attempts to undermine it. A common foreign policy is a formula for paralysis, as we saw in the Gulf and Yugoslavia.

There is advantage, as Sir Nicholas says, in the fact that Maastricht provides for procedures to ensure that those who fail to observe their obligations are penalised. But do we need a treaty to ensure what should have been from the start a basic principle of the Community?

The inherent danger in an "ever closer union" is that it will be an artificial creation which will be torn apart by nationalism. It is better to halt the process at the point where consent is still freely and even enthusiastically given.

Yours faithfully,
GUY MILLARD,
Fyfield Manor,
Southrop, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP for York (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, On June 9, in the midst of ferment in the Commons over Maastricht, the House of Lords published a timely and dispassionate report (HL Paper 5) which deserves wide attention as the Lisbon summit discussions on EC enlargement approach. The report suggests that applicant countries should be able to associate with EC foreign policy (para 172) and it concludes that "the States which have emerged from decades of Soviet military domination and communist oppression are looking to the Community as an anchor for their fragile democracy, security and independence and as a source of strength for their crippled economies" (para 144).

These remarks echo a letter you published from almost all Conservative MEPs on November 17, 1989, within days of the fall of the Berlin Wall, when we called for an EC framework strong enough, deep and flexible enough, to embrace such countries as does the Maastricht treaty. Article O of the treaty implies full membership of the Union, but allows for "adjustment" according to circumstances.

As the House of Lords report points out, alternative forums for

foreign and security discussions such as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) or the Council of Europe are "soft" organisations, whereas the EC is a "hard" organisation. It is so notably because of its decision-making procedures.

Austria and Sweden, both "neutrals", have been shadowing the EC's existing foreign policy co-operation. This transitional process should be widened to other countries — and deepened by their formal involvement in the common foreign and security policy (CFSP).

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD McMILLAN-SCOTT,
Parliamentary Office,
European Parliament,
Rue Belliard, Brussels 1040.

From Mr Robert Walter

Sir, Maastricht was not a "good deal" in the interests of Conservative party unity. It was a "good deal" because it would lead to the kind of Europe that is in the interests of the British people.

What those who are both for and against European integration must now ask themselves, is whether the regulations that emanate from Brussels with the approval of the Council of Ministers and are enacted into national law would not be the same if the process were "inter-governmental" or purely domestic.

That some of us object to regulations that we have chosen to harmonise at European level does not negate the concept of European unity. Maybe there is simply too much petty government at every level, and Europe and Jacques Delors are easy scapegoats.

I remain, Sir,
ROBERT WALTER
(Deputy Chairman,
Conservative Group for Europe,
110 Grosvenor Road, SW1).

Delors appointment

From the Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Sir, Your editorial today states that the Foreign Office "did a deal with the Germans" last year about extending M. Delors' term of office. There is no substance in this whatsoever.

No decision has yet been taken about the next Commission president. And when the Foreign Office does do deals, it is never for something as intangible as a commitment "to return the favour in due course".

Yours faithfully,
TRISTAN GAREL-JONES,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
London SW1A 2AH,
June 16.

Grave goods

From Mr Frank Dunn

Sir, What would I take with me to my grave (letters, June 5, 11, 12, 13)? My diaries, dating from 1935, so that friends and relatives would be spared the embarrassment of reading what I have said about them, while I could employ eternity in indexing and annotating these intriguing volumes.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK DUNN,
Rose Cottage, Hixet Wood,
Charbury, Oxford.

From Mr Norris K. Haugh

Sir, I would take my bagpipes. Even the Almighty himself could find his patience so serenely tried thereby that he might return me to Earth, with a promise of eternal life thereon.

Yours faithfully,
NORRIS K. HAUGH,
4 Burden Avenue,
West Wimbledon, SW20.

From Miss Mary Cosh

Sir, Let me take my work, for heaven's sake. Assuming I ever did make it to those hallowed climes, one thing at least we have been assured of there is endless time.

Yours faithfully,
MARY COSH,
10 Albion Mews,
Thornhill Road, N1.

From Mr Pat Dale

Sir, For me, a bicycle, assuming that there will be miles of smooth roads, always gently downhill, always a light following breeze, no traffic and no punctures. Fortunately I have a folding bicycle.

Yours faithfully,
PAT DATE,
Byways, Church Lane,
Sawston, Cambridge.

From Canon T. L. F. Mander

Sir, Your correspondents would be better advised to take with them their baptism certificates.

Yours sincerely,
T. L. F. MANDER,
St John Baptist Vicarage,
Tachbrook Street,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

From Mrs Alison Musker

Sir, I'd love to take my paintbox to try to capture the fiery hot reds, or alternatively, all those heavenly colours.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON MUSKER,
South Orchards, Hurst,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Mrs Harley Nott

Sir, Two decks of playing cards just in case there is bridge after life.

Yours faithfully,
MEENA NOTT,
17 Upper Tooting Park, SW7.

terrible diseases. At
field sat down.
A Ver Wines Librarian
and values are not often
booked in this way. Most
people regard Librarian
as far more dangerous and
misleading upon its victim
eyes, foaming mouth and
inclination to bite are more
marked in the Librarian
than in the dog, and there is
no guarantee of a proper
attack against the politi-
cal affiliation, though a
happy home life, regular
meals and a proper job can
help. There is no known
cure for either disorder.

Mr. Major managed a
thin smile. His Librarian
wiped it from his face with
an elegant hand. Would the
PM care to describe the
qualities making Mr. Major
Britain's choice for the
presidency of the European
commission? You could say
Mr. Major's Librarian was
pensive. Not a remark to
be made when the two men
met privately, and for the
first time on the Queen
Marty. "How do you do Mr.
Librarian," said Major
slowly. "I think you are
what you do."

After several luncheon
Mr. Major's Librarian took
Mr. Major's Librarian's
Librarian has many qualities
said to Lady's Librarian
smiling heavily.

Only Nick Budgen of
Wolverhampton
returned to the Librarian
information against the
presidency of the Librarian
subsidy. Mr. Budgen
is not used to being on the
winning side of an argu-
ment and the experience
has unnerved him. The
middle-term Librarian
became a Librarian, giving
the Librarian to think he
said Mr. Major, and
quite so the Librarian
definition Mr. Budgen
troubled. An annex to
Major's Librarian defining
subsidy hardly answers
his prayers but did answer
his question, so he was
satisfied.

Where Lady Thatcher
would have chosen a rolling
pin. Mr. Major's Librarian
whisk. But Nick's Librarian
Soames, the Librarian
minister of food has his
own way of helping Librarian
cabinet discipline. On the
bench after lunch, he said
Michael Portillo.

MATTHEW PARRIS

PM

HIGHEST & LOWEST

GLASGOW

TIDES

TODAY

LOW

RAPIDE

TODAY IN BUSINESS

POWER PLAY

The root of most problems in today's energy market is the uncompetitive nature of electricity generation, Colin Robinson, professor of economics at Surrey University argues
Page 23

MONEY MATTERS

The PSBR in May fell to £13.13 billion, down from a revised £3.46 billion, but scepticism about reaching the year's target remains
Page 21

CIDER TOAST

Taunton Cider is headed for a Stock Exchange listing next month with a market value of £150 million
Page 20

TV LINES

Europe's television-set makers have reached an understanding that could see HDTV sets in Europe by the year end
Page 21

SWEET TASTE

Peter Barr celebrates his first year as chairman of Hazlewood Foods with a higher dividend but flat profits
Pages 21 and 22

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8560 (-0.0023)
German mark 2.9152 (-0.0020)
Exchange Index 92.8 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2037.0 (+10.6)
FT-SE 100 2616.3 (+22.7)
New York Dow Jones 3357.57 (+2.67)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16853.53 (+0.30)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4-9 1/2%
US Prime Rate 5 1/4%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.65-3.64%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4-9 1/2%
US Prime Rate 5 1/4%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.65-3.64%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

GOLD

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4-9 1/2%
US Prime Rate 5 1/4%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.65-3.64%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut (Jul) 821.20 bbl (\$21.30)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 May (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Liquidator threatens legal action

Pressure grows on banks over Maxwell funds

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE liquidator of the Maxwell pension funds has warned banks and financial institutions that did business with Robert Maxwell that "the gloves are now off" in his fight to recover £455 million in missing assets.

Nell Cooper, the partner from Robson Rhodes who is liquidator to Bishopsgate Investment Management, the main Maxwell pension fund manager, is considering legal action against at least seven banks and securities houses. He wants to force them to return pension fund assets or the proceeds from the sale of assets, which they took as security on loans or debt repayments from Robert Maxwell's private companies. He said it is too late for banks to hand over the shares they hold and expect to end the matter.

"The banks have had more than seven months to return those assets. If those shares have fallen in value since this started, I will take action against them for the difference," he added.

Mr Cooper said financial institutions did not take proper precautions when they accepted pension fund assets as security for loans to Robert Maxwell's private companies. He added: "If banks asked for written assurances from Maxwell company directors that these shares belonged to the private companies, it proves they were investigating the matter. They should have taken the time to prove these assets belonged to the companies they were lending to."

Meanwhile, it has emerged that the value of the remaining assets in the pension funds are falling due to the poor quality of the investments. Mr Maxwell sold or pledged all the funds' most valuable assets before he died. Most of the remaining money is invested in small American and French companies. Robson Rhodes figures show that the value of the funds fell by £11 million to £226 million in the first four months of the year. Some of the assets in the portfolio are now penny shares.

Capital House, the fund management subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland that now runs the fund, has decided not to sell the shares in the hope they will recover.

Mr Cooper is demanding the return of shares worth more than £60 million in Teva Pharmaceuticals, an Israeli pharmaceutical company, from National Westminster, Credit Suisse, and Lehman Brothers. It has also asked Banque Nationale de Paris to return a £31 million stake in Euris, a French investment company.

Last week, NatWest took the first step to resolving the dispute when it asked the High Court to decide the ownership of the Teva shares it holds, and promised to return them if the court decides they are owned by the pension fund.

The case is due to be heard next month, but is likely to be brought forward, Robson Rhodes and Stephenson Harwood, its solicitors, are trying to persuade Arthur Andersen, the administrator of the Maxwell private companies, to drop its competing claim on the shares.

Robson Rhodes is thought to be pleased with the help from NatWest. The liquidators have questioned several NatWest executives about the Teva loans, but they are angry with other banks that have refused them access to staff and records without a court order.

Robson Rhodes and Stephenson also want NatWest and the Bank of Nova Scotia to return £107 million raised last October from the sale of a stake in Sotex, an Israeli printing company. The money was used to repay some of the debt of Robert Maxwell Group, one of Mr Maxwell's main private companies, but Robson Rhodes claims the shares belonged to the pension funds.

The liquidator is trying to trace a further £60 million raised from the liquidation of a blue-chip portfolio owned by the pension funds last year.

The shares were sold by London & Bishopsgate International Investment Management, one of Mr Maxwell's investment companies, and the proceeds diverted into the private companies.

Secret report, page 8

Lipworth urges reform of EC competition control

BY ROSS TYEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Sydney Lipworth, head of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has called for a radical reform of the way the European Community investigates and adjudicates competition issues.

An investigative tribunal, independent of the European Commission, should be set up, Sir Sydney said. The tribunal's findings should be binding unless the EC chose to vary them for stated reasons of industrial policy.

Concerns over weaknesses in the present system, spelled out by Sir Sydney at a seminar organised by the European Policy Forum in Brussels, were also expressed by Rolf Geberth, director of the German Federal Ministry of Economics. Dr Geberth proposed the establishment of a European Cartel Office.

Such criticism is likely to add to pressure for reform of Europe's most senior competition authority during Britain's six-month presidency of the Community, which begins next month.

Sir Sydney said the lack of separation of powers and of transparency were deep flaws in the existing powers of the EC. "It is simultaneously detective, prosecutor, judge and executioner," Sir Sydney said.

Both Sir Sydney and Dr Geberth expressed concern over EC proposals that would take a lenient view of joint ventures against other forms of company co-operation.

Dr Geberth said it was important to lighten the EC workload and deal with a backlog of cases. He called for a cartel office that would be closer to business and provide speedier decisions.

A spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan, competition commissioner, declined to comment on the proposals but pointed out that Sir Leon had argued against splitting the legal and political sides of EC competition merger rulings earlier this year (George Brock writes from Brussels).

Not at Royal Ascot, jeans by Gieves

BY JON ASHWORTH

GENTLEMEN in any doubt over what to wear for Royal Ascot have for decades consulted Gieves & Hawkes, the Savile Row tailor that has served lords and generals for more than two centuries.

How then would they take the sight of a pair of blue jeans hanging in the window? Faced with mounting losses, Gieves Group, the parent company, has committed an act that may set bone-china teacups in the West Country trembling with rage. The company has sold the rights over 28 per cent of its shares to a South East Asian clothing company better known for jeans and T-shirts than regimental tunics.

Gieves has sold a tranche of convertible loan stock to USI Holdings, a Hong Kong listed member of the Wing Tai Group, a garment maker and distributor, for £2.5 million. Christopher Cheng, chief executive of Wing Tai, and Kit

Maunsell, a senior director, join the Gieves board as non-executive directors.

Both are directors of Vivat Holdings, the company that makes Lee Cooper jeans. Mr Cheng is chairman of Campari International, the leisurewear group, and Mr Maunsell is chief executive. Wing Tai took 30 per cent stakes in both companies in 1990. Hence, Gieves & Hawkes now has a jeans company and an American sportswear specialist as stablemates.

How times have changed since Henry Stanley and David Livingstone held their historic meeting in the African bush in October 1871. Dr Livingstone was killed out at Gieves, founded in 1785, which specialised in naval uniforms. Mr Stanley had called in for his military wear.

The rivalry ended in 1974, when Gieves bought Hawkes and combined

their names in the famous showroom at 1 Savile Row. Nearly 20 years later, the menswear to publishing group has fallen on hard times. Losses before tax deepened from £428,000 in 1990 to £1.5 million last year. There is no dividend (3p). The loss trebles from 3.1p to 11.1p a share.

The arrival of Mr Cheng and Mr Maunsell is part of a drive to restore the company's fortunes. It is selling Bookpoint, a book distributor, to Headline Book Publishing for £1.4 million.

Gieves plans to concentrate on what it knows best — clothing. Even this has had its problems. A new store in Milan lost £548,000 last year and Gieves is seeking a partner to help bail it out.

"Our timing could not have been worse," said Tom Scruby, chairman of Gieves. "There are no excuses. It was a misjudgment." With the best morning suits costing anything up to £1,750, thank goodness for Royal Ascot...



Maintaining the dividend stream: Brian Birkenhead, the National Power finance director, yesterday

National Power profits of £514m spark protests

BY MARTIN WALLER

NATIONAL Power, the larger of the two quoted generators and accounting for almost half the electricity generating industry, has identified a further 3,000 job losses and announced pre-tax profits up by £80 million to £514 million in the year to end March. The news sparked the inevitable political controversy, led by Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman.

John Baker, the National Power chief executive, strongly defended his company's record. Pointing out that National Power spent £500 million on investment on generating plant last year, £300 million of this attributable to environmental clean-up, he said: "I think we've discovered in Mr Dobson a new renewable energy source."

er, and these would be carried out this financial year to leave fewer than 9,000 on the payroll by next March.

The electricity market grew 0.3 per cent last year, Mr Birkenhead said, but this compared with a half-year rise of 0.8 per cent and masked a second-half fall caused by the recession.

Talks between the generators, the distributors and British Coal would take a little longer, Mr Baker said. "The sort of deal, if it comes about, in prospect will lead to real terms reductions in electricity prices for consumers both in the first and in subsequent years of its operation."

National Power is becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of extra generating capacity that could come on stream during the rest of the decade and has asked Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, to investigate whether some of this plant is uneconomic, and what the eventual effect on electricity prices would be if such plant were to be built.

Leading article, page 15
Tempus, page 22
Power reform, page 23

Efficiency drive puts power jobs on the line

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 5,000 extra jobs will be lost in Britain's power generating industry during the next five years.

By the time the restructuring triggered by the break up and privatisation of the Central Electricity Generating Board is completed, four out of every ten CEBG workers will have lost their jobs, predictions by the companies involved show.

National Power, PowerGen and Nuclear Electric, the three companies that once made up the generating interests of the CEBG, have already shed 10,898 employees from the workforce of 40,700 at vesting in January 1989. They expect to shed some 5,800 more before existing programmes are complete.

By March next year, National Power will have halved its staff from the 17,000 it inherited in 1989. However, a spokesman said the pace of cuts should then slow.

In each company the first attack was on administration costs. That involved both relocation, and a sharp reduction in numbers.

Technological change will contribute to a continuing, albeit slower, loss of jobs in the future. A typical large 2,000 megawatt coal-fired power station has about 350 employees, many of them in-

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Volex to close its wiring arm

By MARTIN BARROW

VOLEX, the electrical controls manufacturer, is writing off £5.53 million against the phased closure of Volex Wiring Systems, which supplies the car industry, over the next two years.

The decision to close the subsidiary was in response to a tendency by car producers to source components from suppliers with an international presence. The extraordinary charge more than offset pre-tax profits of £3.68 million, leaving an overall deficit of £3.09 million for the year to the end of March.

Pre-tax profits slipped from £4.16 million in the previous 12 months after a decline in turnover from £97.35 million to £81.63 million as recession tightened its grip. Operating profits fell from £4.75 million to £3.77 million.

The company said it was concentrating on improving the quality of earnings and eliminating debt. Net investment income was £312,000, compared with a charge of £477,000 last time. In the current year, Volex plans to expand in electrical and electronic connection products and systems.

Taunton sparkles with £150m flotation value

By GEORGE SIVELL

EYES, as well as the drinks, are sparkling at Taunton Cider, the Dry Blackthorn, Autumn Gold and Red Rock cider group. Directors and workers have managed to turn £650,000 into about £15 million in just over a year.

Directors' comments accompanying the draft prospectus for next month's flotation of Taunton Cider reveal the company would have a market value of about £150 million. In the high debt buyout from Bass and Courage in May 1991, workers and directors put up £650,000 of equity, for a stake of about 15 per cent, split almost equally between directors and workers.

Post-flotation, the stake will fall, so that directors and staff will hold about 10 per cent. Morgan Grenfell Development Capital put up 40 per cent of the equity for the buyout. The management buyout cost £72.5 million, of which only £3 million was equity, the rest debt. The money raised in the flotation will be used mainly to pay off the debt. The new balance sheet is expected to have about

£10 million of debt and £20 million of net assets.

In the year since the buyout, Taunton has raised turnover from £95.1 million to £105.3 million and operating profits from £12.5 million to £16.7 million. At the pre-tax level, Taunton fell from £10.3 million to £7.4 million on interest charges up from £200,000 to £9.6 million arising from the debt. In 1988 Taunton made £4.8 million of operating profit on sales of £57.5 million.

The group will not be making a profits forecast in the full prospectus to be released on July 7 but says trading this year is strongly ahead of both last year's figures and internal plans. Dealings are expected to begin on July 23.

Taunton occupies second place in the cider market, with 33 per cent against Bulmer's 45 per cent.

The EC had proposed to treat cider as wine under harmonisation of direct taxes, which would have raised the excise duty on cider. But a special category has been created for cider, which Taunton expects to be ratified soon.



Looking ahead to stronger profits: Peter Adams, chief executive (left) and Nick Pearce, finance director

Erskine edges higher

By JON ASHWORTH

A STRONG performance in America and a reduction in interest charges helped Erskine House, the office equipment services group, to lift its pre-tax profits by 5 per cent to £12.7 million in the year to end-March. An unchanged final dividend of 4.35p leaves the total for the year at 6.65p.

Turnover declined from £190 million to £179 million on disappointing sales of new copiers. However, a large slice of the drop was due to the disposal of Erskine Office Systems, which was sold to its management for £4.7 million in September. The sale stripped £14 million in turnover out of the accounts and resulted in an extraordinary loss of £2.15 million.

The company has halved its UK sales force to 120 in the last two years, mainly by not replacing sales staff when they move on.

Brian McGilivray, the chairman, said he hoped to be well-positioned when sales pick up. Sales of UK copiers declined from about £32 million to £24 million. Margins remain weak. Net borrowing was reduced from £41.3 million to £36.3 million.

Watchdog calls a halt to Hope Commodities

THE Securities and Futures Authority has expelled an oil broker and his company for trading while insolvent and using client funds to meet trading losses and margin calls. The SFA has passed the file onto the Metropolitan Police. Ahmad Al-Rahmani and Hope Commodities, his company, have been ordered to cease trading "on the grounds they have ceased to be fit and proper persons". Hope was placed into liquidation in January with an estimated deficiency of £1.2 million.

The bulk of this money, about £1 million, was owed to one European corporate client. Mr Al-Rahmani's misdeeds were compounded because he was able to produce few dealing records, while information in financial returns to the SFA was false and misleading. Mr Al-Rahmani told the SFA that he "deliberately did not disclose debts arising on certain unnamed client accounts, and that Hope was probably insolvent from the beginning of 1991". In view of the lack of records, the SFA said it was unable to determine whether other clients suffered losses.

Melville Street slips

PRE-TAX revenue at Melville Street Investments, a development capital company, slipped from £1.59 million to £1.52 million in the year to April 30. Net asset value per share rose from 146p to 150p but earnings per share fell from 4.7p to 4.2p. A final dividend of 2.5p (3p) makes 4p (4.5p) for the year. Investment income rose by 6 per cent to £1.46 million. MSI raised £2.1 million during the year from the sale of holdings in PCT and Apollo Metals.

Sheriff holds steady

SHERIFF Holdings, a plant hire company, held pre-tax profits steady at £161,000 in the six months to March 31, compared with £153,000 last time. The interim dividend is increased from 0.75p to 1p. Turnover was unchanged at £4.7 million. Richard Dunn, chairman, said the trading environment was "even more fiercely competitive" than last year. The integration of Abelson Plant, acquired for £2.55 million, was successfully completed.

Cranswick advances

CRANSWICK, a pork products and animal feed group formerly known as Cranswick Mill, saw pre-tax profits rise 24 per cent to £1.7 million in the year to March 31. Turnover increased from £75 million to £94 million. A final dividend of 5.2p (4.5p) makes 7.5p (6.5p) for the year. In November, the company paid £3.9 million for Yorkshire Country Pork. The enlarged meat processing business has been renamed Cranswick Country Foods.

Myerson Liberty plea

BRIAN Myerson, the entrepreneur challenging the board of Liberty, the fashion retailer and wholesaler, has written to shareholders urging them to support his proposals. Mr Myerson wants a single share structure, which he says will create a fairer system. Liberty outlined its criticisms of the proposals last week. In response, Mr Myerson has accused Liberty of providing "selective" information that gave shareholders a misleading impression.

Adidas expects bid

ADIDAS, the German sports goods maker owned by Bernard Tapie, the French tycoon, said a group of international investors was working on a bid for the company. M Tapie said he was considering selling Adidas after he resigned from the French government amid financial scandals. Britain's Pentland Group, which bought an indirect 20 per cent stake in a holding company owned by M Tapie, has expressed interest.

Harland Simon sale

HARLAND Simon Group, the engineering company, is selling its Vickers division to Thermo Fibertek, a subsidiary of America's Thermo Electron Corporation, for £8.1 million. Vickers specialises in equipment for the paper industry and effluent-screening kit. In the year to March 31, it earned pre-tax profits of £1.3 million. Proceeds of the disposal, which requires the approval of shareholders, will be used to reduce debt.

Kleen-e-ze in the black

KLEEN-E-ZE Holdings, the hygiene and household products group, returned to profit in the six months to the end of February, earning £587,000 before tax compared with losses of £428,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 3.78p a share, compared with losses of 6.26p, but there is again no interim dividend and the company expects to pass the payment of a final dividend. Turnover rose from £24.62 million to £25.28 million.

EC rejects criticism of EMU

FROM REUTERS IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has dismissed criticism of its plans for economic and monetary union (EMU) by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

"It does not raise any new questions which have not been discussed and settled by the G7 (treaty negotiations) and the Maastricht summit," a commission spokesman said. The BIS, in its annual report, questioned whether a single currency was needed and whether the future central bank—although independent—would have the political will to crush inflation if unemployment was high.

"The convergence programme submitted by (EC) member countries and the surveillance exercise in the Council (of EC finance ministers) prove that the states take the convergence criteria and the (EMU) timetable seriously," the commission spokesman said.

The commission had always defended the principle of a balance between EMU's monetary side, which had to be centralised and indivisible, and the economic policy side which should be decentralised and co-ordinated among member states, the spokesman added.

Offer closes at GPA

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE \$1 billion global share offer from GPA Group, the Irish-based aircraft leasing firm, that closed in Britain and Ireland last night should be fully subscribed but at the lower end of the price range, industry analysts say.

Applicants had to submit tender offers, pitched between \$10 and \$12.50 a share.

The resulting price from the British and Irish part of the flotation, due to be announced on Thursday, will influence the price of the American and Japanese parts of the offer, which both remain open until June 25. GPA, the world's largest aircraft leasing company, makes money both by leasing and by selling aircraft to airlines. Its size means it can buy new airlines at a substantial discount. It now has 350 aircraft on lease to more than 100 airlines worldwide and will take delivery of another 308 planes, worth almost \$12 billion, between 1993 and the end of the century.

The company's advisers say promotional roadshows in Japan and North America, in particular, have gone well. Even the more sceptical analysts expect the 85 million shares on offer, just under 30 per cent of the company, to go without difficulty.

Analysis
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recovery in US
gaining in str

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share £16m s



Tetra

IS seeks w

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TEMPUS

Job cuts fuel National Power

ANNOUNCING bumper profits may be regarded as misfortune in this open season for the power industry. Announcing 3,000 extra job losses on the same day looks like careless public relations.

National Power was in this invidious position yesterday, and the best that can be said by industry watchers is that it has at least taken some of the heat off the beleaguered distribution companies. Three things stand out from the figures over and above the record profits of £514 million, a year-on-year increase of 18 per cent.

One is the high level of coal stocks, in value terms up £119 million to £415 million. John Baker, the chief executive of National Power, describes this as excessive and says a reduction remains a priority.

The second is the extraordinary cost reductions still available to National Power and not therefore yet reflected in the profit line. The company remains confident that the target of fewer than 9,000 staff is achievable by the financial year end, requiring 2,400 job cuts this year.

The third is efficiencies achieved. Last year, operating profit per unit of power produced rose 29 per cent, and measured per employee, the rise was 45 per cent.

It becomes increasingly clear, as the tripartite negotiations between distributors, generators and British Coal continue, that the landscape post-March 1993 will favour the latter two parties rather than the consumer, with the distributors under threat from the regulator. National Power has grandiose plans to invest up to £1 billion by the end of the decade on expansion overseas and to derive 20 to 25 per cent of income from that source in due course. The core business will keep profits ticking over for now.

Nigel Hawkins at Hoare Govett thinks National Power will make £580 mil-



Live wires: Ken Harvey, Norweb's chairman, and Brian Wilson, finance chief, reported profits up by a fifth.

lion this year, putting the shares on about 7.4 times future earnings. They yield a prospective 5.6 per cent, just ahead of the smaller PowerGen's. Further progress looks likely once the outcome of coal talks is clear.

Norweb

POLITICAL eruptions and the striking of postures aside, the current crop of results from the electricity distributors is featuring some remarkably resilient performances in the face of a recession.

East Midlands has already this week demonstrated strong demand growth from its core business. Now Ken Harvey, Norweb's chairman and chief executive, has

shown that even after all the depressed economy of the North West in which Norweb operates, rose by 1.4 per cent.

Norweb has pulled its retail business, the source of some grief previously, back into profit. It has been boosted since the financial year-end by the purchase for £5 million of 20 out-of-town Atlantic electrical superstores in the North and Midlands from Thom EMI, increasing total store space by half.

A question mark remains, however, over another core business, electrical contracting. This has made losses for two years and has to move back into profit this year.

Following East Midlands' 13.7 per cent rise, Norweb has stepped up the dividend by a generous 13.2 per cent.

A similar rise next time would mean a forward yield of 6.7 per cent, about in line with the industry average. Norweb is a well run company with excellent prospects; but the sector remains overshadowed by regulatory risk.

Hazlewood Foods

LAST June, Hazlewood Foods raised its final dividend from 3.2p to 3.7p, as a sign of confidence. This year, the final rises from 3.7p to 3.9p and the results statement says "the increase reflects directors' confidence in future prospects".

In 1990-1, earnings per share slipped from 19.76p to 17.13p. In the year to end-

March, they fell again to 16.4p, at least leaving the total dividend for the year of 6.1p well covered.

Confidence for Hazlewood Foods means more British consumers buying expensive Christmas puddings and ready meals, which will only happen when the public is more confident of its economic prospects. Hazlewood can at least be thankful that 40 per cent of its business is on the Continent whose inhabitants care more about food and have less recession to dull their appetites.

The Sutherlands family spread business, acquired for £35 million in July last year, contributed £3.5 million over the seven months it was in Hazlewood's books. This was £1.6 million more than Hazlewood had expected and made up for disappointment elsewhere. The company has, for example, suffered well-documented problems during the year with shortages of cockles and flat fish.

Pre-tax profits were struck after a £1.1 million charge for reconstruction costs for shutting a bottling plant in Derby. The group is spending £11 million on a new bottling plant at Selby, North Yorkshire, but remained cash positive. Debts rose from 59 to 69 per cent of shareholders' funds, largely because of the Sutherlands acquisition.

Because of recession, Hazlewood has found it necessary to discount most of its lines. This has helped to boost sales volume, which rose 8 per cent by value, but at the sacrifice of profit margin. For the current year analysts expect a recovery to about £56 million to £57 million before tax reported yesterday. At 150p, up 3p yesterday, the shares yield 5.4 per cent in dividend and stand on a multiple of 8.6 times next year's forecast earnings of 17.4p a share.

Hold for signs of economic recovery.

WORLD MARKETS

Housing starts bring cheer to Wall Street

New York — Blue chips opened higher on Wall Street, boosted by the largest rise in housing starts in more than a year and mildly positive data for May industrial production and capacity utilisation.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 9 points to 3,363.90.

□ Hong Kong — Shares finished higher in sluggish trading. The Hang Seng index ended 27.68 points higher at 5,846.75 after lagging by 55 points earlier. Analysts said the rise was helped by demand for lagged blue chips like HSBC Holdings, which has been hit by uncertainty over its bid for Midland Bank.

□ Sydney — The market continued its two-week drift lower, with industrial shares leading the way downwards. The all-ordinaries index fell 7.6 points to 1,639.4. Bro-

kers said that most weakness stemmed from the feeling that improvements in the macro-economic picture would take longer than expected to work their way into profits.

One broker said the market was "a bit sad", referring to low trading volumes and a poor performance by the all-industries index, which fell 17.7 points to 2,519.3. The only bright spots were some support from Tokyo, where the Nikkei closed virtually unchanged, and from gold. The gold index closed 4.2 points up at 1,080.4 and lent some support to the all-resources index, which ended only 0.2 down at 965.3.

□ Frankfurt — Shares closed slightly firmer after hovering in a narrow 5-point range. The Dax index ended 5.20 points higher at 1,779.10. (Reuters)

Institutional buying keeps Nikkei steady

Tokyo — Shares ended virtually unchanged, with the Nikkei index below 17,000 after spending much of the day above. The Nikkei average closed only 0.30 points higher at 16,953.53. Turnover was about 230 million shares, compared with 210 million shares on Monday.

Institutional buying put a floor under prices and dealers chased individual shares, but, brokers said, the uncertain prospects for official economic measures kept investors wary.

Brokers said that Royal Construction, which is listed on the over the counter market, might have trouble meeting its debts and would seek support from Daiyoku, a builder, renewing worries about

bad property debts. Royal fell ¥80 to ¥190, while Daiyoku ended ask-only at ¥900, down ¥90. But Daiyoku said it had no ties with Royal and a private credit research firm said that Royal was not facing an immediate debt crisis.

□ Singapore — A late round of buying led share prices to a mixed close, with banks gaining ground and shipyards finishing lower. The Straits Times industrial index closed level with Monday's finish at 1,549.88, but falling shares outnumbered rising shares by 155 to 69 in the overall market. Brokers said they saw some institutions switching to selective Singaporean and Malaysian issues from recently sluggish Hong Kong shares. (Reuters)

STOCK MARKET

Firm futures help shares to bounce back

EQUITIES clawed back some of their recent losses, with the FT-SE 100 index staging a technical rally and bouncing back above the 2,600 level, although the advance was achieved in thin trading conditions. Firm futures and a £125 million overnight buy-weighted programme trade, said to have been instigated by BZW, helped share prices to stage a turnaround. A positive start on Wall Street, boosted by healthy housing starts, also buoyed sentiment in London.

The FT-SE 100 index ended at its best level of the day, closing 22.7 points higher at 2,616.3. The FT index of 30 shares rose 10.6 points to 2,037.0. But volume could only reach 391 million shares.

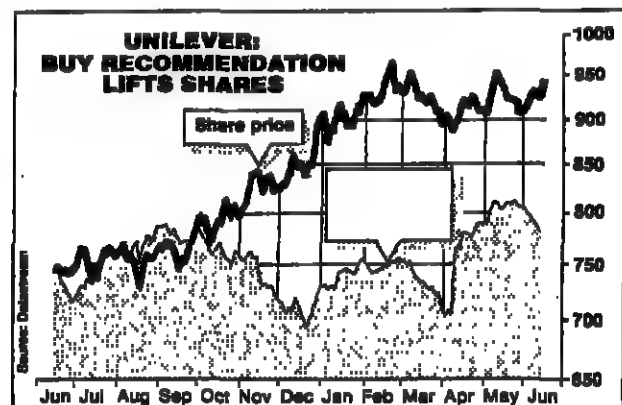
Government securities enjoyed gains of 1/4 at the longer end as the latest public sector borrowing requirement proved to be better than expected. Dealers, however, remained sceptical about some of the rate-cut stories doing the rounds, especially in the light of the Bundesbank reiterating its anti-inflationary stance by warning that a premature cut in German rates was not on the cards.

Meanwhile, regulatory worries persisted as bumper profits from Norweb and

National Power, which plans to shed 2,400 jobs, provided fresh political sparks. Among the electricity companies, East Midlands dimmed 4p to 289p, London 3p to 320p, Seaboard 5p to 308p and Southern 4p to 292p. The package fell £28 to £3,120. Among the generators, National Power faded 4p to 244p, while PowerGen was unchanged at 248p.

Unilever, up 11p to 944p, received a boost after County NatWest, the broker, changed its stance on the foods and consumer products group from hold to buy and included Unilever in its list of top shares. UBS Phillips & Drew was also said to be recommending the shares.

John Campbell, at County, said the move is designed to refocus investors' minds on stocks that have defensive characteristics and "real" prospects of margin recovery. Lasso enjoyed a 10p run-up to 209p, making a two-day gain of 15p, on a volume of 3.7 million shares, with plenty of buyers as option activity again fuelled "firestorm" rumours that Elf Aquitaine of France may bid. However, one senior oil analyst described the bid stories as "spurious nonsense on a quiet day". The exploration group was also buoyed by the



prospect of the flotation of its North American downstream operations, which were acquired when Lasso bought Ultramar, with the newly demerged company expected

to be valued at about £700 million. Norrie Morrison, at Kleinwort Benson, has upgraded his profit forecast for National Westminster by £60 million to £560 million in the current year. Kleinwort be-

lieves that NatWest's bad debts are recovering at a faster rate than previously anticipated, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. The broker also thinks that the

United Biscuits lost 9p to 380p after Julian Lakin, of Smith New Court, the broker, trimmed his current-year forecast from £216 million to £207 million, against £211 million last year. Mr Lakin is concerned that the tough trading conditions on both sides of the Atlantic are taking their toll on the group's core biscuits and snack food businesses.

bank will benefit from cost savings. NatWest shares added 3p to 337p.

Elsewhere in the banking sector, Midland advanced by 10p to 435p, reacting to strength in the HSBC share price, up 12p to 313p. Mean-

while, TSB Group, which is due to report interim figures next week, firmed 1p to 139p despite a profits downgrading from Smith New Court.

The slide affecting Fisons, triggered by last week's profits warning and the ensuing downgradings, appears to have come to a halt for the time being at least, with the shares recovering 3p to 241p. The recent events have left a question mark over the group, with some speculators claiming that Fisons is now vulnerable to a bid. No one, however, seems to know what the company is worth, although one or two City experts are putting a probable ceiling for any offer at 290p a share.

ICI eased 1p to £12.67 before tomorrow's City presentation. One party that will be hoping for bullish noises from ICI is Goldman Sachs, the American securities house that is still thought to hold 10 million ICI shares, for which it is said to have paid Hanson £13.05 each.

Rugby Group, the building materials company, added 6p to 195p after profit upgrades from Nikko, the Japanese securities house, and Société Générale Strauss Turnbull. Mark Hake, at Nikko, was pleasantly surprised follow-

ing a recent visit to the company, especially when taken in context to what is happening to the rest of the sector. He has increased his current-year profit forecast from £58 million to £60.5 million, with next year's forecast up by £3 million to £63 million.

Atmosex eased 1p to 127p, after Robert Miller-Bakewell, at County NatWest, cut his forecast for the year to end-July from £48 million to £40 million, with next year's forecast reduced by £10 million to £50 million. He is concerned that the waste management group's important second half has not seen a sustained upturn in the United Kingdom, while the American recycling business does not appear to be having as good a year as last year.

Sainsbury added 5p to 459p as County reiterated its positive stance on the supermarket group. Elsewhere, the investment community will be keeping a close eye on Asda, up 4p to 34p. Asda is due to open its first experimental format store in Manchester this Saturday, which represents the first such opening since Archie Norman joined the supermarket group and may play a part in his strategy in trying to turn the group around.

PHILIP PANGALOS

Airlines raise holdings in DHL

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

LUFTHANSA and Japan Airlines (JAL) have both raised their holdings in DHL, the international carrier, from 5 to 25 per cent.

In addition, Nissho Iwai, a Japanese trading company, raised its 2.5 per cent stake to 7.5 per cent. DHL is now 57 per cent owned by its international partners: its American, Hong Kong and Chinese founders have 42 per cent.

The airlines' increased stake reflects their confidence in DHL, the UK business of

which has shot up by 28 per cent in the past 12 months. EC turnover has risen by a quarter.

DHL is riding the crest of a wave, buoyed by an expanding market for express courier services, by the withdrawal of its principal rival Federal Express from international services in Europe, and by the promise of EC deregulation in postal services.

DHL International, which accounts for the group's inter-

ests outside America, had sales of \$1.8 billion in the past year. In a European market valued at \$2 billion a year, it is the only cross-border courier making a profit.

However, competition is sharpening. TNT, the Australian courier that distributes *The Times*, is launching a joint service with post offices in Sweden, Germany, Holland and Canada. UPS, an American courier, also plans to expand in Europe.

"I don't think there's going to be any concentration of power in the EC market," said Patrick Lupo, DHL's chief executive, in Brussels yesterday. "There's a lot of innovation." Between them, DHL's 30-strong management team speak 26 languages.

Mr Lupo said DHL's partnership with national carriers such as Lufthansa helped it to cut costs in Europe. One cause of Federal Express's downfall, he said, was its expensive policy of running its own flights through its Flying

Tigers subsidiary. Mr Lupo expects deregulation of the EC postal network, inspired by Sir Leon Brittan, competition commissioner, to bring about further expansion in the market.

"In the US, deregulation helped the market to grow to \$6 billion," he said. "With more consumers, there's no reason at all why the European market shouldn't grow to the same size by the year 2000."



Brittan: fillip for post

Travellers Fare leaps 87% to record profits

BY DEREK HARRIS

TRAVELLERS Fare, the former station catering section of British Rail, bought out by its managers three and a half years ago for about £12.5 million, lifted pre-tax profits by 87 per cent to a record £3.6 million in the year to end-March. Turnover was down marginally from £78.6 million to £77.3 million, but operating profit jumped 67 per cent to £4.4 million.

David Bailey, managing director, said sales were affected by the impact of the recession on travellers' spending. He said: "Vigorous management action to improve margins and to control costs resulted in the profits increases." He added: "Trading conditions in the current year remain tight, but the measures we have taken in the last 12 months mean that the business is well placed to benefit from any increases in consumer activity."

Andrew Lynch, finance director, said that, because of

the company's operational gearing, much of any sales upturn would show up at the bottom line. Although efficiency had been improved, there was still some scope this year to improve margins further, he said.

The other plus for Travellers Fare, which has about 270 outlets and employs some 3,000 people at British Rail stations, has been its rapid expansion into new markets. These include outlets at Heathrow and Edinburgh airports, Victoria coach station and around London's West End. The latest project, a site at Heathrow's Terminal 4, will bring the number of off-station sites to 19. The company has developed a number of branded chains.

Mr Bailey said: "We will continue to progress our off-station strategy and to invest further in expanding our operations in British Rail stations."

RECENT ISSUES

Brazilian Inv Tr Units	272 1/2	-2 1/2
Bent Walker Ws	3	...
Deer	32	...
Grosvener Ins	103	...
Hughes (T) (TS)	81	-1
Ind Control Serv 10p (110)	105	+5
Latin Amer Inc & Ap (104)	110	...
M & G Recovery Int	40	...
M & G Recovery Int	241	...
M & G Recovery Int	122	...
Milner (V) (122)	11	...
Vega Corp	137	...
Walpole (RFD)	24	-1 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES

BICC N/P (285)	40	-1 1/2
Blue Chip Sup N/P (200)	18	+1
EMAP N/P (230)	17	...
Eadie Sp N/P (14)	17	...
ENK Farming Sp N/P (43)	17	...
Europa Midland N/P (10)	4	...
Falkum Inv Trus Inc N/P (57)	3	...
Marshall N/P (75)	3	...
Patentoff 10p N/P (180)	38	-1
Probus Int 2p N/P (280)	140	...
TLS Range N/P (15)	4	-2
Transfer Technology N/P (400)	45	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:			
HSBC	313p (+12p)	Unilever	944p (+110)
Midland	435p (+10p)	Lloyds & General	385p (+100)
Bates	804p (+11p)	British Aerospace	308p (+120)
RAC Group	550p (+12p)	FALLS:	
Redland	509p (+10p)	Liberty Life	678p (-10p)
BAT	778p (+10p)	Artair	222p (-15p)
Vodafone	344p (+10p)	Blenheim Group	518p (-10p)
ADT	478p (+20p)	HighPoint	164p (-13p)
Land Sec	725p (+12p)	Takeda Chem	434p (-10p)
TI	389p (+14p)		

Closing Prices: Page 27

THE TIMES

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Power market reform is the key to successful coal privatisation

Colin Robinson says
that a review of
the electricity
generating industry
is vital to make
the energy market work



Powerhouse for competition: Colin Robinson, editorial director of the Institute of Economic Affairs

gas but after years of unsuccessful attempts to coax an unwilling monopoly to behave competitively, the structure of the gas industry is being changed fundamentally. Moreover, any observer of the energy market knows that, as in the case of coal privatisation, the unthinkable turns rapidly into the merely politically impossible and equally rapidly appears on the political agenda.

Leaving British Coal intact on privatisation would compound the errors of electricity privatisation. retaining a monopoly in the one energy industry that has no natural monopoly characteristics. If the market power of the duopolists is as great as government must believe — hence its interference in the coal industry — then that power should be reduced by break-up or other means. If the generators can dominate the coal industry, they must also have substantial market power relative to new generators and consumers.

A common fear is that the British coal industry would be decimated if it were divided. If that were true, it would demonstrate the huge costs incurred in supporting the industry at its recent size. More likely, however, the industry would be bigger than suggested by non-market projections — then that power should be reduced by break-up or other means. If the generators can dominate the coal industry, they must also have substantial market power relative to new generators and consumers.

The objective towards which policy should be working is to create privatised coal and electricity supply industries, within each of which there is rivalry among actual and potential suppliers. Given the states of the gas and oil markets, there would then be significant competition throughout the energy sector.

Contrast that with what exists. The government's instinct is correct: the electricity and coal markets are so monopolised that they do not produce the right signals. Its policy of intervening as before, in the belief that it knows what the outcome should be, is misguided. Presumably, it intends to persuade the generators to take more British coal than they would wish and to pay some premium for it. Yet the government has no means of knowing what either the quantities or the premium should be.

Government should recognise that the root of most problems in today's energy market is the uncompetitive nature of electricity generation. A political fix, forcing the generators to take British coal, is not the answer. To bring benefits to consumers and allow a sensible form of coal privatisation, the electricity market should be liberalised in a way the government failed to do first time round.

The author is Professor of Economics at the University of Surrey and Editorial Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Vetting Brussels over competition

Britain's competition authorities have already become disillusioned with the way Brussels is running its end of the merger-vetting process. Having spent many years establishing the independence first of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and then of the Office of Fair Trading, they have found that by transferring most big mergers to European Community level, they have let the process revert to the political dark ages. The detailed work done for the competition commissioner may be competent — that has not yet been fully tested — but the outcome is then subject to a collective decision by EC commissioners and is prey to every conceivable interest group. Rulings may be determined more by skill in lobbying than objective judgment, especially as the final decision is not subject to control, as is a minister's discretion in Britain.

This is not merely a theoretical flaw. Interference was evident in the messy continental regional aircraft manufacturing merger where national industrial policies were in direct conflict with competition tests. In the recent international Perrier bottled water case, the French government has advised the EC competition authorities not to interfere in deals worked out at national level.

Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the MMC, reinforced in forensic detail yesterday the objections made by Sir Gordon Borrie, the retiring director general of fair trading. He also found an ally in Germany, where the cartel office, though fashioned on American rather than British lines, relies on independence. Sir Sydney did not call for Bundesbank-style isolation, but merely asked that the decision-making process should be transparent and that reports of inquiries should be published, so that an independent body could reach its conclusion on the simple tests of competition. It would then be up to commissioners, or some other political judges, to override that test if they wanted and explain their reasons. Such reforms are needed before the potentially corrupt EC system is set in the concrete of its own vested interest.

Filling the gap

The Treasury's efforts to sell to third parties some £5 billion of debt owed to it by BT, the electricity distributors and other privatised industries, some of which is not repayable until the next century, can be seen as a good housekeeper's tidying up exercise, familiar on the financial markets as securitisation. The overture could, less charitably, also be seen as a sign of impending panic over the immediate future of the government's finances.

In the first two months of the financial year, the public sector borrowing requirement rose from £5.7 billion a year ago to about £8 billion this time, excluding privatisation proceeds. That need not cause worry yet, since the PSBR for the year is forecast to double to a net £28 billion. That assumed, however, that the economy would grow by 1 per cent in the calendar year, a forecast the Treasury has already mentally consigned to the waste paper. Meanwhile, the fall in underlying inflation looks on target. Government revenue was 2.5 per cent down in April and May against the same months last year and the shortfall could get worse.

Since the projected £28 billion deficit was already near the knuckle for international financial markets, the government may therefore need any money it can get and is sensible to plan ahead. Selling private company debts to the government is only another form of funding but would count as negative public spending and keep the PSBR figure down. Never mind that such moves could upset the companies own carefully calculated financing plans and even raise the cost of finance to them by the odd fraction that finance directors sweat over.

electricity privatisation failed to establish competition in generation. The initial structure was monopolistic. National Power and PowerGen — organisations with the same managerial origin and considerable knowledge of each other's costs — had little incentive to compete vigorously. Electricity demand is insensitive to price in the short term, so tacit collusion is likely to be profitable.

The main hope for consumers was entry by newcomers and increased imports from France and Scotland. There was a promising initial surge of entry by companies with gas-fired plants equivalent to at least 10 per cent of existing capacity, though most have tied themselves to members of the industry so their degree of independence is uncertain. Equally uncertain is whether there will be more entrants in the foreseeable future, given likely excess capacity.

Domination of this market by two large generators left the British coal industry — which makes more than three quarters of its sales to power stations — in difficulties. The generators wanted to reduce the dependence on British coal forced on the former Central Electricity Generating Board by successive British governments. Their initial plan mixes were far from what they desired and were probably incapable of permitting

them to meet EC sulphur emission standards. So they joined the rush for gas, started to build coal import facilities and agreed to fit flue gas desulphurisation to about eight gigawatts of existing coal-fired plant.

This peculiar new market, in which a monopoly buyer has been replaced by a duopoly with greater freedom to choose fuels, is unlikely to produce improved combinations of prices and output in either the coal or electricity supply industries. There is nothing optimal about the size of the British coal industry that is likely to emerge, nor about the price of coal to power generation. Nor are electricity prices being determined in convincingly more competitive conditions than previously. Industrial consumers complain that electricity suppliers are virtually alone in being able to force higher prices on them when they are struggling with recession.

The Office of Electricity Regulation is being drawn into regulating generation, which, if competitive, would not need regulation. In the coal contract negotiations, the government evidently thinks the market is so imperfect that it is interfering virtually as much as in the days of the CEBG and "joint understandings". Symptomatic of the unsatisfactory

state of the coal and electricity markets is the debate about whether National Power and PowerGen should be investing so much in gas-fired plant — or whether they should continue to operate coal plants with an apparently low avoidable cost. In a competitive market, there would be no such debate. Generators would invest in new plant only if they believed that the avoidable costs of the new plant (capital and operating) would be less than the avoidable costs of the old plant (operating plus any incremental capital) and they would supply at prices close to avoidable cost in times of surplus capacity rather than shut down plant. The generators are suspected of building gas-fired plant to pre-empt market entry, because they appear to be able to manipulate prices or volumes.

What is to be done? The counsel of despair is that the post-privatisation structure of the electricity supply industry must be taken as given. Eventually, competition will appear in electricity supply. In the meantime, British Coal will have to be privatised either whole or, as opinion now seems to favour, with a minimal split into perhaps two parts: any finer split would mean that the power of the generators would wreck the industry. Such views should be disregarded. Similar arguments were heard about

BUSINESS LETTERS

Reality of rate cutting policy

From Mr M.P. Gould
Sir, We are to believe that the government is totally unaware as to their impotence in trying to lower the true interest burden experienced by most medium and small businesses.

As a matter of policy, all the major banks are moving away from base rate linked personal and business facilities, through to a system euphemistically termed managed rates. Ironically, the recession and consequent reduction in competition in lending has permitted this major structural change to be introduced, thus delaying the fall in the true cost of borrowing.

Managed rates have, according to their advocates, the ability to smooth out what might otherwise be thought of as too frequent a change in base rate linked interest charges.

Primarily it is designed to benefit the major banks by effectively introducing a much wider margin than previously experienced and at the same time maintaining a brake on

the downward trend in interest rates.
I single out no particular bank as I believe all are moving in this same direction. But as an example, it is interesting to note that the finest rate currently available from Lloyds is 1.12% per month, equivalent to an APR of 14.3%. Such a rate would, it seems, be applied to overdraft facilities granted to customers who might be generally termed "special" and who, I would suggest, would previously have enjoyed a base rate linked facility at perhaps 1.75-2.5% over base. It does not take a mathematical genius to work out that the bank has effectively doubled its margin in circumstances where the government of the day is encouraging a downward trend in interest rates. Impudent or purely ignorant? Yours faithfully,

M.P. GOULD,
Chartered Accountant,
Johnston House,
Johnston Road,
Woodford Green,
Essex.

Better representation for pensioner groups

From Mr Barry Bryson

Sir, There has recently been considerable publicity on the problems of pensioners and their inability to obtain representation on the very Boards of Trustees of pension funds set up for their benefit.

I am the secretary of a group of pensioners of a British company which we formed a year ago to represent the interests of our members.

We are aware of the formation of large groups of pensioners such as the Imperial Tobacco Action Committee (IMPAC) and now British Airways Pensioners Associ-

ation (BAPA). Perhaps we pensioners need one collective voice to represent us all at Parliament and to provide information for argument.

Employers have substantial resources and belong to associations sometimes denied to pensioners.

Does such an organisation exist and if not, is it now time to form one?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY BRYSON,
Churchside,
Fore Street
Uffculme,
Cullompton,
Devon.

Life magazine, has been written by British Airways director of planning. His name is Ron Mudd.

Out of India

PETER Grant, chairman of Sun Life, has many Indian connections, but it is not entirely clear which prompted his appearance at the Indian High Commission in the Aldwych last week. Grant's great-great-grandfather was chief justice in Bengal and his great-great-grandfather was lieutenant governor of Bengal in the 1860s. He insists that last week's reception was, however, to mark a joint venture between Sun Life and the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India whereby the two will market life assurance products to the estimated one million Indians resident in Britain. Grant had little direct contact with India until four years ago, when he was introduced to the country by PR man Tony Good. As chairman of Cox & Kings, the UK's largest tour operator to India, Good has many Indian connections of his own and it was through these that Grant became an unofficial adviser to the Tata Group, India's largest industrial group, and eventually picked up the odd contract in life assurance too. Grant believes the time is ripe to further Indian links. "The determination with which the prime minister, Narasimha Rao, has pursued the economic liberalisation started by Rajiv Gandhi is very encouraging," Grant says.

CAROL LEONARD

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Back in the Kenwood mix

THE flotation of Kenwood during the next fortnight with a likely stock market value of about £100 million — today is impact day — has shed a spotlight on the man who founded the business 45 years ago, Kenneth Wood. Living quietly in Hampshire since he sold the business for £10 million to Thorn EMI in 1968, and struggling to reduce his golf handicap from 19 to 15, Wood, 75, a colourful character who joined the merchant navy at 14, trained as an electrical engineer and became one of Britain's youngest millionaires at 38, is no stranger to publicity. In 1965, he made headlines when he was cited in the divorce of former beauty queen Patricia Berney by her husband, the director of a West End fashion house. He was forced to pay £1,000 damages to Leonard Berney. Now married to Patricia, Wood regrets the day he sold Kenwood to Thorn and reveals that he will be subscribing to a "reasonable number" of Kenwood shares. "It is 20 per cent an emotional decision but I do think the company has potential," he says. "I have great respect for what Tim Parker, the chief executive, is doing. Thorn just let it drift. Parker has revamped it into the type of company it was in the old days."

Songs for Sign

ANNALY House, a self-help residence for young deaf people that is being built in a deconsecrated church in



"I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT MEANT NO PARKING"

Wandsworth, and named after the late Lord Annaly, a former private client partner at Greenwell Montagu, is to be the sole beneficiary of a concert of French and Persian songs being given by Shusha Guppy at the Almeida Theatre, Islington, on Sunday. Annaly and his wife Beverley helped found the charity Sign, which is behind the Annaly House project, and both have been friends of Iranian-born Guppy for many years, since her days as an intellectual in Paris in the 1960s. Guppy's son Darius was the best man to the then Viscount Althorp when he married Victoria Lockwood, and Althorp, now Earl Spencer, is a cousin of Annaly's. Tickets are on sale at £15 each via the box office on 071-3594404.

AFTER all those appropriate names, an inappropriate one at last. An article about aeroplanes of the future, published in the current edition of High

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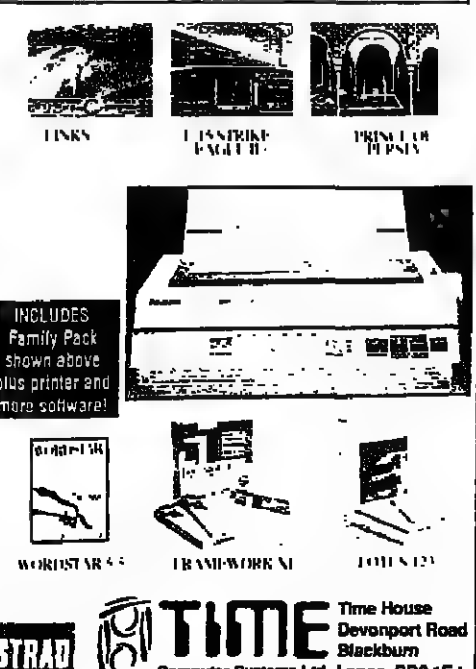
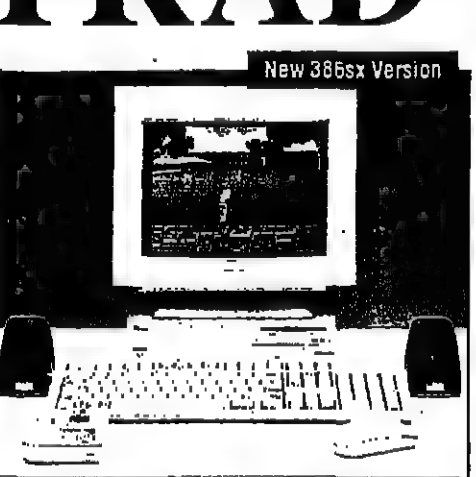
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No redundancies as network of more modern facilities is created

British Gas shuts one showroom in ten

By RODNEY HOBSON

ONE out of every ten gas showrooms is to close this year, as part of a British Gas policy to concentrate on larger showrooms with a wider range of products.

British Gas says it had 659 showrooms at the start of the year. Some have already been closed and by December, 64 will have gone. British Gas says they are all small ones employing up to three staff.

It declines to give a regional breakdown of closures. However, industry sources say the closures are spread throughout the country. They say that Wales will be particularly affected; up to half the showrooms are to close.

About a quarter of the outlets south-east of London are also understood to be earmarked for closure.

A British Gas spokeswoman said: "Our aim is to operate a network of modern showrooms, providing our customers with the best in gas appliance retailing, account payment facilities and a comprehensive range of customer services and advice."

She added that the company's showrooms operated in a

"dynamic environment" and British Gas had to respond to trends. "In appliance retailing, customers expect to find a wide range and choice of products in modern retail centres."

British Gas claims customers are taking advantage of account payment plans. Coupled with increased use of bank, building society and Giro bank payments, this is reducing the level of account payments insurance.

The spokeswoman added: "The operation of our showrooms with well trained staff, using modern computer technology, is a costly activity. It is necessary to keep showrooms under review and to close smaller, uneconomic showrooms if we are to invest in the opening of new showrooms and modernisation of existing ones."

She cited the showroom at the new Meadowhall shopping centre, in Sheffield, as an example of a modern outlet. Heavy expenditure on providing a better service has been made at Wolverhampton, Portsmouth, Eastbourne, Harrogate and the Teesside

retail park. British Gas says that all staff involved have been redeployed or have retired and that there have been no redundancies.

The spokeswoman said: "We recognise that any showroom closure is likely to cause some hardship and whenever a showroom is closed we will normally provide alternative local account payment facilities unless there is a nearby alternative showroom."

Well over 80 per cent of the company's customers were within five miles of a showroom.

Ofgas, the industry regulator, said British Gas was not obliged to inform it of showroom closures.

The Gas Consumers Council also said it would not expect to be informed. A spokeswoman said the council's job was to investigate complaints; it would therefore not become involved unless there were complaints about closures from members of the public.

An industry source claimed that British Gas was spreading the closures over the year to minimise publicity.



Something cooking: new showrooms will demonstrate a greater range of goods

Oversupply about to clip the wings of travel industry

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S travel industry is awaiting the first big company crash of the year. The inevitability of the impending collapse is accepted in every boardroom as directors of tour operators review statistics that prove conclusively that supply of package holidays far outstrips demand.

Their main concern is to ensure that they are not the first to call in the receiver, who is hovering in the wings waiting to sort out the industry's self-inflicted mess.

After the Gulf war, which brought holidays and foreign travel almost to a complete halt, the industry's boardrooms were awash with optimism. The British public, they said, would want to catch up by taking holidays this year. The recession, they believed, would soon end, adding to the latent demand, the spare capacity arising from the collapse of International Leisure Group would give them greater scope for expansion and a Tory election victory would provide the final boost.

Individually, the travel groups applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for licences to provide 13.5 million holidays this year, an increase of 30 per cent on the last 12 months. Some companies were so optimistic that they more than doubled the number of holidays on offer. Aspro Travel, for example, which had 107,000 packages on

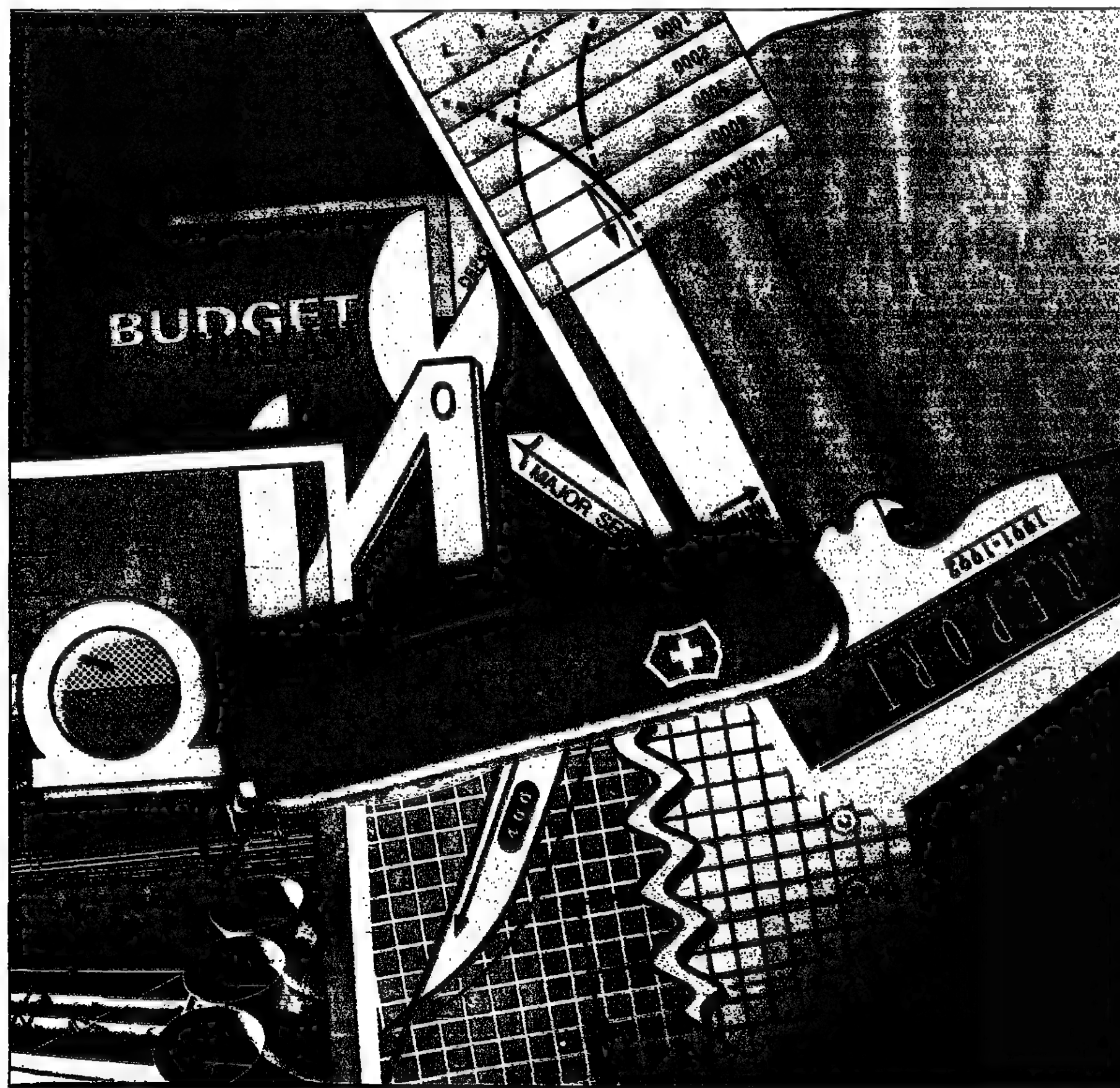
offer last year increased the number in its brochures to 334,000. Avro received CAA approval for 431,000 (93,000) and Airnours for 1,750,000 (1,271,000).

To soak up this additional capacity, British holiday-makers would have had to have booked about 30 per cent more holidays by now than they had by the same time last year. In fact, the growth has hardly been more than 5 per cent. Some tour operators blame the current problems on Thomson Holidays, the market leader, which made it clear that it would sell all its 3.03 million holidays at whatever price. It was forced to accept this, said the critics, would mean customers delaying bookings in the hope of finding a cheap bargain.

Undeterred, Thomson embarked on one of the most aggressive price cutting drives ever seen. Smaller companies were forced to follow suit, cutting prices, consolidating flights and trying to pass on their financial problems to the charter airlines. With the summer peak almost on us, there are 1 million holidays still unsold.

In response, smaller companies have cut staff and removed brochures from sale. Meanwhile, bills for charter seats and hotel beds are having to be paid. The clatter of collapsing dreams is expected at any moment.

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Bankruptcy filings surge in US

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

BANKRUPTCIES reached a record in the first quarter of this year, with 252,733 businesses and individuals seeking protection from creditors, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute.

The surge reflects the difficulties in surviving a prolonged recession by those heavily indebted after the credit bonanza of the Eighties, economists said.

"We have had three years of very, very sluggish growth surrounded by periods of recession, so it is very difficult to survive," said Jack Albertine, of Albertine Enterprises, an economic forecasting firm. Bankruptcy filings in federal courts totalled 252,733 between January and March, up 9.5 per cent on the same period a year ago, the institute said.

Individual bankruptcies rose the quickest, up 9.8 per cent against a 5.3 per cent increase for businesses. They continued to account for about 92 per cent of the filings in the first quarter, the institute said.

Economists said the surge was hardly surprising since unemployment was at an eight-year high of 7.5 per cent. Bankruptcy trends usually come after a change in the overall economy, but a surge this late in the business cycle is troublesome, said Eileen Appelbaum, associate director at the Economic Policy Institute. Figures show the economy is growing after the recession that began in 1990.

Foster's rejects merger

FROM REUTER IN SYDNEY

FOSTER'S Brewing has rejected a merger proposal from SA Brewing Holdings (SABH). Nobby Clark, Foster's chairman, said: "On balance, we do not believe the proposal would be advantageous for our shareholders."

The Foster's strategy was to become a single-purpose brewing company, Mr Clark said, and SABH's proposal did not offer benefits that justified reversing the strategy.

Foster's believes the non-beer businesses of SABH are incompatible with the current Foster's businesses and that the SABH proposal offers minimal synergies, while exposing Foster's to substantial downsides with continued instability, costs and implementation issues," he said.

SA Brewing, a beverages and manufacturing company, announced a plan in May to merge with Foster's by means of a cashless share swap, creating a company with assets of about A\$10.6 billion (£4.3 billion).

After the announcement, S&P-Australian Ratings placed the credit rating of Foster's on "creditwatch (developing)".

"While Foster's is sound, with a strong cash flow," Mr Clark said, "we recognise the benefits that would flow from a better credit-rating. Options to address this are being carefully examined."

Foster's declined to comment on a newspaper report yesterday that it planned an A\$1 billion rights issue.

Economists cautious on growth in Japan

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S economy resumed its expansion in the first quarter of this year, but economists said it did not signal a real recovery yet.

Temporary and seasonal factors boosted gross national product but the tone was weak, they said. "The latest GNP data don't warrant optimism," said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute.

GNP, the total output of goods and services, rose a real annualised 4.3 per cent in January-March, after a revised 0.3 per cent contraction in October-December.

Quarter-on-quarter, GNP rose an inflation-adjusted 1.1 per cent in January-March, after a revised 0.1 per cent in October-December, the government's economic planning agency (EPA) said. Negative growth in the previous quarter was the first in two-and-a-half years.

"The official spin being put on the numbers is that things look pretty good, but these numbers don't reveal the reality of the situation, which is that the economy is sliding into recession," said Kenneth Curtis, economist at Deutsche Bank.

Analysts said growth, espe-

cially in consumer sales, was inflated by February's extra day. Consumer spending rose an annualised 3.4 per cent after a 0.4 per cent gain the previous quarter.

Companies also rushed to repatriate profits from overseas affiliates before book-closing at the end of March to make up for poor earnings at home, economists said.

Government inventories also recorded an extraordinary rise because of a large purchase of rice by the government during the quarter, economists said. "If we exclude all these extraordinary factors, GNP would have risen only by an annualised 1.5 per cent, rather than 4.3 per cent," Mr Takagi of Fuji Research said.

The EPA also said GNP rose a real 3.5 per cent in fiscal 1991-2, ended March 31, falling short of the government's forecast 3.7 per cent growth for the year and slowing from 5.5 per cent the previous year.

Shunji Fukunaga, the EPA vice-minister, said the gap between the official forecast and the actual figure was not too significant. "We do not think there is a big gap between 3.7 and 3.5 per cent."

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FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Starting today is a conference devoted to an industry whose steady growth continues to defy the recession. Derek Harris reports



Marilyn Standley: Longman's new building will support company development

A workplace watershed

In a watershed year Britain's facilities management industry, already worth probably at least £100 million a year, is looking for sustained growth rates as industry and commerce painfully pull out of recession.

Recession itself helped boost the industry as business sought ways to improve efficiency. A switch to the use of outside professionals in facilities management, if the whole range of services for an enterprise are involved, can produce claimed savings of a fifth or more.

One harbinger of continued growth prospects is the annual facilities management conference allied to the Premises and Facilities Management Exhibition which opens at London Olympia today. With more than 120 exhibitors and at the conference an attendance of 450 expected, the event, the third annual one to be held, is double the size and scope of that in the previous year.

Ken Trench, head of Magnet Events, which organises the exhibition and conference, said: "We have seen a doubling each year so far and it looks as if growth will continue." An element is likely to be the increasing flow of EC legislation affecting services to companies, especially in the health and safety sector, where the latest requirements coming through include action to limit repetitive strain injury

(RSI) for those using VDU keyboards and screens.

Another growth indication has been the uplift in the membership of the Association of Facilities Managers, a key professional organisation in the industry whose membership is expected to rise from 1,300 to approaching 3,000 during this year.

Providing facilities from commercial and industrial buildings to office equipment and meals at the workplace, while maintaining every service so that it will continue to function efficiently, is a vast industry whose size has been variously estimated at from £18 billion in annual sales to £30 billion.

There have been suggestions that about a fifth of the market is now represented by contracting-out in one form or another but the figure is disputed. The sector is comparatively new and statistical research is scant. In the United States market it is estimated that 40 per cent of work is contracted out.

The industry operates at three levels. The broadest is concerned with strategy, dealing with questions such as those of location. It may be a question of opting either for a single large headquarters or a split of buildings. It might raise the issue of relocation from city to smaller town,

typically London to the regions. The state of the property market and relative rent levels will be crucial elements to be weighed. Consultants and chartered surveyors typically deal with these broader issues.

The project level is a finer focus. At this stage architects are drawing up various alternative plans with facilities management consultants able to provide relevant input.

When the relative merits of either refurbishing an older building or creating a new one are being weighed a factor which increasingly looms

'We are still going to see substantial growth coming along now that more companies are seeing the results'

large is the range of technologies, with their hardware, that the business will demand now and in the future. Sometimes older buildings cannot easily cope with the needs of the modern service business whose offices will be crisscrossed with electronic equipment.

Environmentally friendly buildings are beginning to be required. Longman, the international publishing company, which moved its headquarters

to Harlow in Essex in the 1960s, has taken a hard look at this one. Project director Marilyn Standley, who is a facilities manager, faced the problem that since the Essex move Longman had tripled in size and in addition to Harlow had half a dozen sites in London and around the South-east. It has all the technological needs of present-day book and other publishing.

The result is a £30 million development not far from the Harlow site which will not have air conditioning. The energy needed to run the building is strictly limited and the use of modern building materials allied to natural ventilation is planned.

It is expected to improve communications between the various Longman publishing businesses and give flexibility while providing an attractive environment. Ms Standley says: "It should support the development of Longman into the next century."

Some facilities management companies list 50 or more services which can be provided. Key ones are catering, cleaning, security and building maintenance. Others range from linen services and library operation to waste management, gardening and landscaping, and providing a

properly run crèche. There are specialised areas like training centre management, medical and first-aid support and pest control.

Leaders of the industry are sanguine about its prospects. Peter Davies, commercial director of BET Contract Services, a subsidiary of the BET group and one of the biggest operators in facilities management, said: "The interest in facilities management as a technique to improve efficiency has doubled in the past year. That perhaps has partly been driven by the recession forcing businesses to seek out every possible efficiency, but we are still going to see substantial growth coming along now that more companies are seeing what results facilities management can produce."

Setting professional standards is seen as an essential element as the industry develops and is one of the main preoccupations of the Association of Facilities Managers.

John Crawshaw, the association's director, also underlines the need for facilities managers to set specifications clearly so that service providers are lined up to do the most effective job. "If the windows that get the dirtiest most quickly are not cleaned — even selectively — when they need to be," he points out, "the company's image may suffer when important clients call."

French tilt at services stronghold

While the United States has been the trail-blazer in international facilities management since the 1970s, the British services industry seems to have established itself as the sector's strong second force during the past decade.

But this positioning could be under threat, largely because of developments in Europe, Derek Harris writes.

Facilities management, which involves placing a single management on all the servicing elements in a company, are not buzz-words in continental Europe in the way they are in the UK and America.

Britain's No 2 positioning in international facilities management is under threat from the continentals

Holland, however, has followed the UK pattern, with a strong professional body for facilities managers.

The concept is catching on in Germany, where there is also a professional body, and to a lesser extent in France. In Spain, EC money is supporting some investigation into the sector, but generally the further south one goes in Europe the less the subject becomes a discrete activity.

There is, nevertheless, considerable contracting out in

Europe of services, such as catering, security and cleaning, on UK lines.

There is also a joker in the continental pack. In France and Germany, particularly, building maintenance engineering is a relatively highly developed sector, and this could set the scene for continental companies with their high level of expertise to move into what is likely to become a more dynamic market sector in the UK, says Andrew Rabeneck, who is vice-presi-

dent Europe for facilities management with Salomon Brothers International, the financial analysts and consultants.

One acquisition already points that way, involving Compagnie de Chauffage, the building maintenance engineering arm of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the French water company. About ten years ago it acquired Britain's AHS, a leading contract energy management company. Last November the French strengthened their UK

hand by acquiring the Enstar subsidiary of Shell UK, another key player in contract energy management.

AHS Enstar now has about 2,500 clients in the private and public sectors of business and an annual turnover approaching £100 million.

"I believe the French have spotted a big opening in the UK for buildings maintenance operations that are more management driven and responsive," Mr Rabeneck says.

The continental companies have cut their teeth on big public contracts, such as looking after combined heat and power plants for large public housing projects. Relationships between landlord and tenant in the UK have tended to be "feudal", Mr Rabeneck says. "In the United States the landlord does more for the tenant and looks after buildings rather than simply letting it off with a repairing lease for 15 years or more."

An influence in integrating facilities management in Germany could be the closer responsibility of a principal tenant of a building, who is likely, for instance, to run the building's catering as a whole to service all the tenants.

The Japanese have come late to bringing in facilities managers from outside, because their companies have been accustomed to running every aspect of their own affairs. "But it seems likely that, given the Japanese approach to business, we might well see some initiatives soon from their direction which could have international impact," Mr Rabeneck says.

They've got your number

Council work has been a blessing for one company



Christopher Chope, former roads minister: number plates earn revenue for both the Treasury and Capita

The rapid growth of the facilities management industry has produced many success stories, but few to match that of Capita, which has been able to move up to a full stock exchange listing after winning the unlisted security of the year award (Rodney Hobson writes).

Like other facilities management companies, it has thrived in recession. Most of its clients are in the public sector, ranging from local authorities to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea and Television Licensing in Bristol.

John Jasper, managing director of Telecom Capita, the Oxford-based facilities management arm, says: "Recession seems to have passed local government by — they probably feel they have been in recession for so long now that it is the norm. They are looking to get more value for less spending on a continual basis."

Capita helps about two dozen authorities to send and chase bills. The starting point was rates and poll tax collection but Capita now helps with most financial functions.

Mr Jasper says: "We telephone people to remind them to pay and this has proved very successful. We have made contact with about 70 per cent

of non-payers and about half have made arrangements to pay."

The push into facilities management came when the company took responsibility for running Berkshire County Council's mainframe computer in 1989. Over the past year facilities management contracts have been sought by councils in the north and Midlands and by London boroughs.

The DVLA has for some time held back a selection of vehicle number plates, particularly those numbered 1-20. For the past 18 months Capita has been helping to sell them as "cherished numbers".

Mr Jasper says: "It has been a highly sophisticated telemarketing activity. The DVLA advertises the services and we have our computer linked in to Swansea. If a member of the public asks us for a number we make the sale and collect the money."

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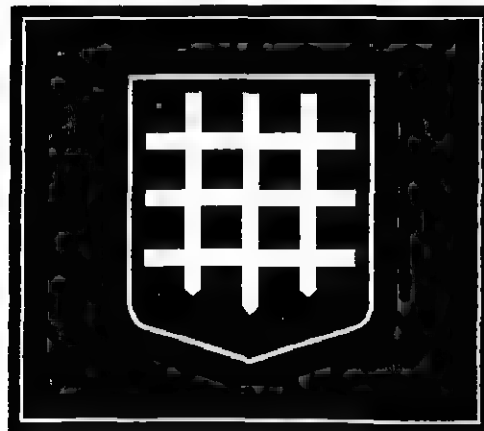


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selectively - when they
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company's image may be
when important clients

Service with a saving

Efficient
managers are
increasingly
using outside
contracting, says
Derek Harris

Practical arguments for out-sourcing tend to be in the public sector to become overlaid for a time by ideological argument, as a Conservative government the last time round compelled local authorities to put out services to competitive tendering.

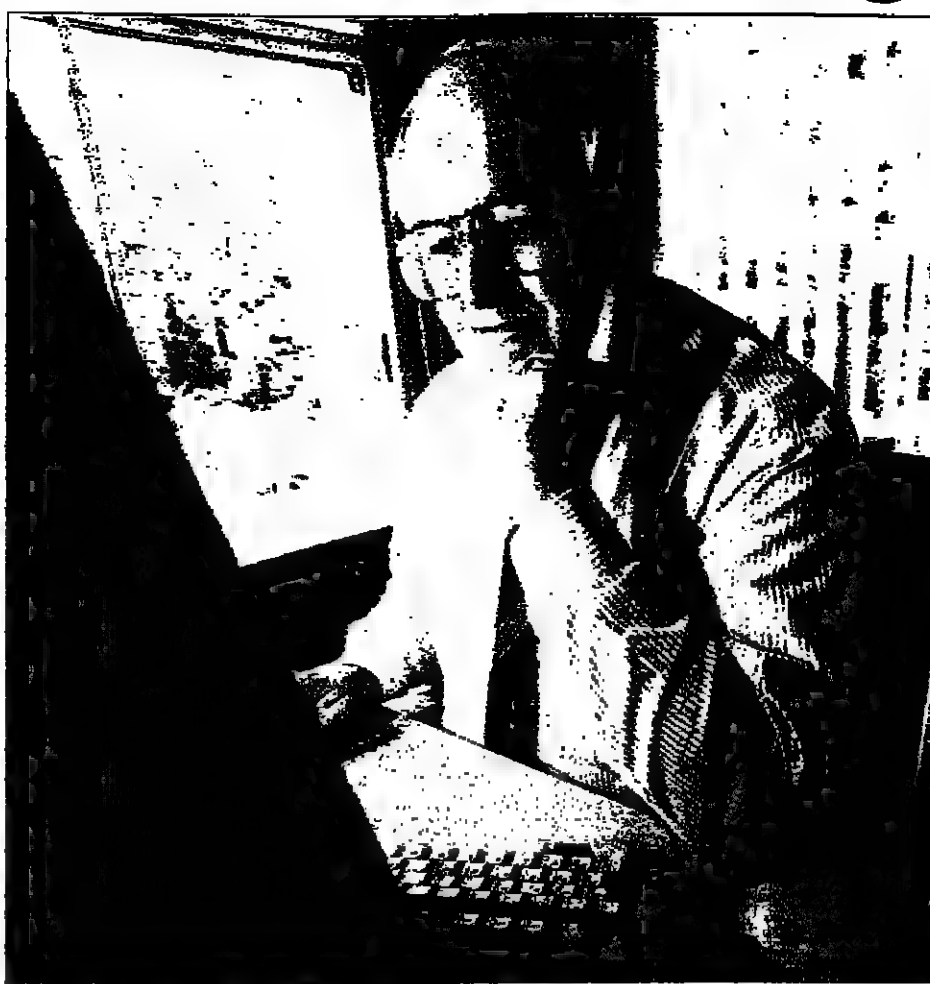
Now the common watch-words all round are quality and efficiency, as contracting out is increasingly favoured for a wide range of services to industry and commerce.

However the private sector is still picking up barely a third of contracts let by compulsory competitive tendering so the public sector is seen by facilities management companies as an area of substantial opportunity.

Whether it is the public sector turning to competitive tendering or private sector businesses looking to contracting out so they may concentrate on their core business, outsourcing is all about improved productivity and cost-saving, says Peter Davies, commercial director of BET Contract Services, part of the BET group.

He underlines the industry view that savings of 25 per cent are not unusual if a total facilities management regime is imposed. He admits it depends on how well organised a business may already be. But in many businesses, services such as catering, cleaning and security can be scrappily arranged.

"When you get a switch from directly employed labour to a contracted-out operator for a single service - catering perhaps - you usually get one-off saving, say about 20 per cent," Mr Davies says. "That saving goes on but there isn't much scope for improving on it subsequently by changing contractors. Bring in an overall facilities manage-



Ready to negotiate: Geoff Gidley, chairman of the Association of Facilities Managers

ment package and there will be another one-off saving which should then continue."

BET, whose client list includes the Vauxhall UK arm of General Motors, the Marks & Spencer retail operation, ICL the computer maker and Renault UK, also in the car field, has long had a wide variety of subsidiaries in company services.

A key rival, P&O, best known for its shipping interests, includes among its business services Sutcliffe Catering, one of the leaders in its field. P&O also offers a separate overall facilities management service.

The most recent shake-up in the industrial catering field potentially leaves Sutcliffe in third position in its sector. The sale of Gardner Merchant, the industrial catering arm of the Forte hotels and catering group, is being negotiated with rivals Compass and ARA.

The biggest stake is likely to be that of Compass, which would finish up with well over a third of the market. ARA, with its American parentage, would move up from fourth to second position with about a fifth of the market.

It is a common pattern in the industry for companies to develop full facilities management capability through being involved in one or other of the servicing activities.

It has been argued that this could prove a weakness because a potential client might feel such a company's own servicing subsidiaries would tend to be favoured in allocation of servicing contracts by the overall facilities management consultancy.

John Hall, director general of the Cleaning and Support Services Association, maintains that on the contrary it can be a strength. He says: "A managerially complex con-

tract is usually only as good as the quality of the manager on site and the back-up support available."

Companies such as BET and P&O argue that business common sense dictates that independent advice must be given and that a reputation for independence once built is fiercely guarded.

Out-sourcing will become more commonly accepted in the future as the way to deal with services, says Geoff Gidley, chairman of the Association of Facilities Managers. Mr Gidley left Unilever to set up his own Facilities Management Solutions consultancy, based in Northamptonshire.

Some client attitudes need to change, he says. "Clients ought to be a little more formal and precise about what they want done. There is also more scope for negotiation compared with a situation where staff are running a service."

BA in £230m deal

A ten-year contract worth £230 million is claimed to be the largest facilities management agreement in Europe. Drake & Scull Technical Services will manage and maintain ground facilities at Heathrow and Gatwick airports for British Airways.

The arrangement will leave BA to concentrate on flying 25.6 million passengers a year round the world and moving more than 500,000 tons of freight annually, *Rodney Hobson writes*. For Jim

Alabaster, head of facilities at BA, and Bob Warman, Drake & Scull managing director (pictured right), the arrangement benefits both parties.

Facilities under Drake & Scull's control include water, gas, electricity, data centre, aircraft docking, catering and workshop equipment. The area covered is more than 10 million square feet.

About 250 out of 300 staff transferred to Drake & Scull while the rest either left voluntarily or were transferred to other BA operations.



Hot work leads to lower bills

With the days of cheap energy long since gone, some firms have found that facilities management companies can help to cut power bills substantially. The Department of Energy studied what happened at Quadrant House at Sutton, Surrey. Built in 1980 as two office towers of 20 and seven stories linked by a two-storey podium, it provides office accommodation of about 260,000 sq ft. In 1987 the present owners, Reed Business Publishing, engaged Matthew Hall, the maintenance division of Amec, to make it more energy-efficient.

As a result, gas consumption was cut by a third and electricity use was reduced by 15 per cent despite increases in the work load. Quadrant House used gas to heat two large boilers to provide hot water for the canteen, toilets and for the warm-air central heating system. The first saving was to minimise the production of surplus heat by a more efficient control system.

The central air conditioning system sent treated fresh air to the rooms, where wall-mounted heat pumps supplied or removed heat to suit individual needs, transferring heat to or from a circulating water main.

Matthew Hall took over the energy management service, including plant operation, maintenance repairs, fuel purchasing and achieving environmental standards. New burners were installed and the electronic control system replaced.

It was also found that heat-

Surprising savings can be made in commercial heating and lighting

ing hot water in summer, when use was purely for the canteen and lavatories, could be carried out more efficiently by electricity.

Big savings could also be made in the use of electricity for lighting. Originally lights in all the offices were controlled from large switch panels in the corridors and naturally many lights were left on unnecessarily.

Automatic lighting controls were installed with an override

switch in each office. All lights except security lights - typically one per office - were switched off automatically at 1pm and hourly after 6pm. In addition, where daylight was sufficient, peripheral lights were switched off in mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

This change was admittedly not universally popular. The building was occupied by more than 1,000 staff working from 8am to 7pm on weekdays with limited occupancy

until 9.30pm and occasional weekend use. There was some annoyance as lights switched off, especially in areas of poor natural light where, for example, blinds had been drawn to prevent glare. However, energy used for lighting was cut by a third.

Getting the equations right was an essential part of the facilities management contract. For example, savings were made by heating offices rapidly just before they were used in the morning, and cutting out the boilers at 4.30pm on warm days. All in all, the Department of Energy was highly impressed.

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Mr Jasper says: "These
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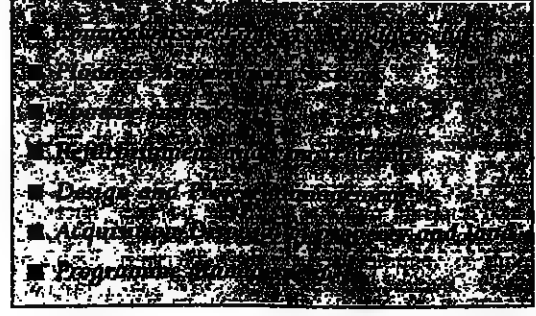
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Spend now, profit later

Many companies merely move staff around the office, shifting desks, pulling down partitions and relaying cables with little regard to the cost. Others persevere in unsuitable office layouts because they fear the price of putting matters right.

Facilities management experts are now trying to persuade clients that a more sophisticated approach is possible, *Rodney Hobson writes*.

Peter Lebus, a director of Cochrane McGregor and chairman of the Institute of Facilities Management, says: "In today's climate costs have assumed greater importance and people are aware that they must justify spending. Many executives do not make the changes they ought to make because they cannot afford to put up the money."

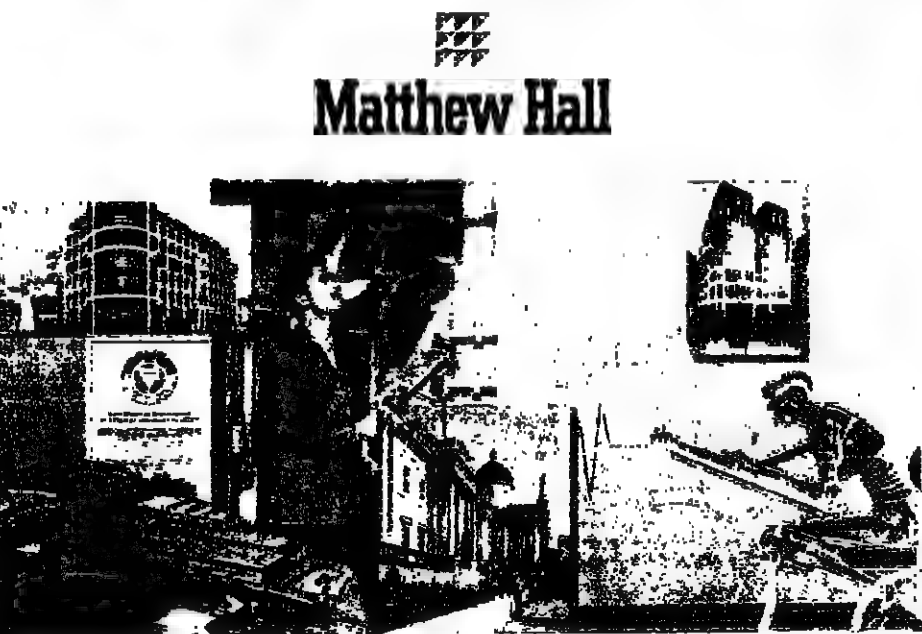
"There is a feeling that money spent on offices just goes on making the place look pretty. People do not always appreciate that money is made on what goes on in the office."

"There have been considerable changes in technology and the way offices are organised. It is important in today's competitive climate not to be beaten by the more efficient firm next door."

Mr Lebus believes there is a growing sophistication among facilities management experts and the occupants of buildings. Buildings have tended to be inflexible and to impose restrictions on the occupants but that is changing, he says. It is easier to make arrangements cables and air conditioning when the building is still on the drawing board.

He says: "Erectors of buildings have different priorities to users. It has been a seller's market in the past and I think we will see dramatic changes over next few years. Flexibility is what occupants want and the marketing people have caught on."

As the institute chairman, he is particularly keen to emphasise the training programme. He says: "The institute was set up to raise standards of professionalism to provide and sponsor education. We have set up certificate courses throughout country. We are working very hard to provide better buildings."



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Warwickshire unable to take advantage

Twose is thwarted by efforts of the Middlesex tail

By Jack Bailey

COVENTRY (first day of three; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 284 runs behind Middlesex.

TEA for Twose was an enjoyable experience at the Coventry and North Warwickshire cricket club yesterday. Roger Twose, hitherto an occasional bowler for Warwickshire who has never taken more than two wickets in a championship match, lifted a cup and contemplated a spell which had just brought him six for eleven runs during the course of 64 balls. It was a spell which also brought about a remarkable Middlesex collapse, even by the standards, and all but turned the innings on its head.

From 171 for one, Middlesex had been reduced to 223 for eight, of which Gatting had made 117 and Haynes 67. Ramprakash had failed to get off the mark on the second successive occasion and the rest were nowhere. But in a final twist to the plot, Middlesex had two unlikely cards up their collective sleeve in the shape of Weekes and Fraser.

These two added 74 for the ninth wicket and Middlesex

reached the 300 mark, and with it, full bonus points. By then, Twose was exhausted. Donald, as he had been all day, was wayward and although Small finally polished off the innings, Middlesex had recovered a measure of poise. Moles and Ratcliffe saw out the 12 overs remaining and Warwickshire, too, had in a sense got away with it.

Before the advent of Twose with his little away swingers, Middlesex had been in clover. The loss of Roseberry early on, when Small cut one back and brought a fine, diving catch out of Piper, was soon forgotten while Gatting and Haynes added 161 runs for the second wicket.

Gatting was at his best while Haynes, less belligerent but full of deft placements, was the ideal foil.

Batting was never easy against Donald, Small and Smith on a well-grassed but good pitch. But Gatting endeavoured to make it look deceptively simple.

There was an all-or-nothing quality in his play, an unerring ability to select the right ball to hit. There were seven fours in his first 31 runs, ten in his fifty and no fewer than 20, plus a five, in

his century. This was Gatting's 69th century, his third of the season, and in making it he joined the select band of Hearn, Hendren, Compton, Edrich and Robertson, who have made 50 or more hundreds for Middlesex.

He was nearly run out at 48 and went to 99 with a four which brushed slip's fingertips, but it was an innings worthy of any of his illustrious forerunners.

His batting, and that of Haynes, must have lulled Middlesex into a sense of false security. Twose believes in his own bowling and, even though before this not many others did, he made a number of converts yesterday. Genuine away swing bowling to a length was his forte.

Haynes was caught behind playing defensively; Ramprakash, a long time for nought, caught at gully; two balls later, Brown was caught at the wicket and Twose had taken three wickets for one run from 20 balls.

When Gatting was caught at slip off Moles, Middlesex were in dire straits and with three more wickets falling to Twose before tea, Middlesex were more than grateful for Weekes and Fraser.



A cut above the rest: Gatting on his way to his fiftieth century for Middlesex at Coventry yesterday

Robinson inspires Yorkshire

By Peter Ball

HEADINGLEY (first day of three; Essex won toss): Yorkshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 179 runs behind Essex.

WHAT a difference a win makes. A sorry-looking bunch a month ago, Yorkshire now have their tails up, and they enjoyed a good day, or at least the first two-thirds of it, yesterday. Mark Robinson taking a career-best five for 48 as Essex were bowled out for 223.

Since the return of Moxon, there is a new purpose about the side. The bowlers are giving nothing away and the fielders are holding on to some sharp chances. Yesterday's piece de resistance came from Carrick, pouncing panther-like on Garnham's drive to throw down the wicket before Garnham could recover his ground.

The win over Derbyshire was the work primarily of the spinners, but it was the seam bowlers who did the damage yesterday, a new and encouraging story for Yorkshire in recent years. The willing Hardley has carried the brunt of their attack since Jarvis first suffered the vapours and he played his part to the full, busting in to bowl with persistent accuracy and producing a hostile enough bounce to make Hussain jump.

The main threat, however, came from Robinson. Recruited from Northamptonshire with some type 18 months ago, he failed to live up to the excessive expectations in his first season, but he has, at last, begun to look a bowler to be reckoned with. None of the Essex batsmen played him with any ease yesterday as he kept the ball up to the bat and moved it off the seam at a brisk pace.

It is always tempting when a team is bowled out at Headingley to start wondering about the pitch. The caution of Waugh and the false strokes induced from Nasser Hussain well into his innings was evidence for the prosecution and there was some movement, but there were few signs of any errors in the pitch, a good wicket for cricket if not for batsmen wanting easy runs.

Robinson began his work by removing the two openers, Stephenson edging to slip, and Pritchard driving outside a ball of full length. Waugh and Hussain steadied things with a partnership of 59 in 19 overs, but once Hardley trapped Hussain, Robinson broke the back of the innings as Knight fell to a good catch at short leg, and Waugh succumbed leg before.

Essex's excessively long tail went meekly until the last pair arrived and things began to sour for Yorkshire. Childs and Such held them up for over an hour adding 37, and then the loss of both openers and the nightwatchman, Gough, spoilt a good day.

Cowdrey digs in for highest score

By Ivo Tennant

BRISTOL (first day of three; Gloucestershire won toss): Kent have scored 456 for eight wickets against Gloucestershire.

FOR the first match of the summer at Bristol, they had a pitch and weather more akin to April and the continuation of building works, something all too familiar to spectators at Lord's and the Oval in recent years. It was as well that the cricket was mostly arresting.

Kent, having been put in on a pitch sticky like green in hue, found it to be only mildly lacking in pace. There was no devil in it. Having weathered an indifferent start, they were doing much as they pleased by the close. Cowdrey made his second century of the season and Marsh, Fleming, Hooper and Ealham all struck assertive half-centuries.

It is hard to break the perennial habit of prefacing Cowdrey with his Christian name. But he alone of his family serves the club now, which may or may not be coincidental in his averaging 74 and making, here, 147, the highest score of his career. He plays in no one's shadow. It was a gutsy five-hour innings that became less restrained once he had reached his century.

Gloucestershire had taken the field saturated with seam-

ers. Nobody could recall when they had last played at Bristol without a spinner. They included Babington, having chosen not to discipline him for throwing the ball at Fleming on Sunday, and from their myopic viewpoint that was just as well. His figures of seven for 93 were the best of his career.

He took all but one of the wickets to fall, including the consolidators, Benson and Taylor, and the stroke players, Hooper, Cowdrey and Fleming. The best ball of the day, though, was probably the yorker with which Walsh bowled Ward. Had he not lipped off with knee trouble, Gloucestershire might have kept Kent in some sort of check.

Hooper's innings of 52, made after taking 39 minutes to get off the mark, was technically the innings of the day. He has no need of helmet or arm guard and is proving Kent's most valued overseas player since Alderman.

That innings enabled Marsh and ultimately Cowdrey to lacerate the bowling, one making 86 off 95 balls, the other short-arm pulling and jabbing. After that, Ealham belted a 44-ball half-century. Of a seven-man attack, only Babington flourished, returning the best analysis of a career that has taken in Sussex as well as Gloucestershire.

Weakened sides put on rack

By Richard Streeton

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of three; Lancashire won toss): Lancashire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 109 runs behind Nottinghamshire.

NICK Speak, of Lancashire, one of three batsmen vying to become the first to reach 1,000 runs this season, finished eight short of the milestone yesterday. Bating was an awkward business on a green pitch from which the ball deviated and it also swung under heavy clouds.

Speak, who needed 31 to reach his target, made a confident 23 when he got to the crease at No. 3 in early eve-

ning after Nottinghamshire were bowled out for 199. When Afford bowled, though, he tried to cut in the left-arm spinner's first over and was caught by Pollard at slip.

Speak was one of four wickets Lancashire lost as they struggled in their turn on a pitch which, without being dangerous, always tested both nerve and technique. Fowler was caught at short leg and Atherton at gully before Speak was dismissed. Shortly before the end, Lloyd was held in the slips.

Evans and French suffered hand injuries as they shared an eighth-wicket stand of 42, the best stand of the Nottinghamshire innings, showing determination but benefiting

occasionally from edged strokes. Evans was hit on the right thumb by Morrison and later went to hospital fearing he had again fractured the thumb he broke last season but it was found only to be cracked. French was hit on an index finger and after three overs in the field retired. Johnson took over as wicket-keeper.

Injuries were a topical subject throughout as seldom can two counties have gone into a championship game so depleted. Lancashire's injury list comprises Fairbrother, Mendis, Watkinson, Hegg and Austin while DeFreitas is absent with England. Nottinghamshire have Cooper and Hemmings injured and

Lewis in the Test party. As the Nottinghamshire batsmen struggled they must have been thankful that Allott was twelfth man and was not playing. Allott, who has appeared only in one-day cricket this season, would have revelled in the conditions. Martin looked the best of the Lancashire bowlers. He and Morrison shared three wickets.

Fletcher, the former Yorkshire player, and Irani, who last year played for Young England, each took two wickets, their first for Lancashire in the championship. Irani bowled at a brisk medium pace, with a whippy arm and also held a spectacular catch at long leg.

Rivals leave path clear for Middleton

By Geoffrey Wheeler



Curtis: narrow miss

TIM Curtis, the outsider of three in the race to be first to 1,000 runs this season, came close to upsetting the odds at New Road yesterday where the Worcestershire captain made 124 against Glamorgan but fell 19 short of the target. He was caught at square leg after Worcestershire had secured maximum batting points for the first time this season.

With Nick Speak, of Lancashire, being dismissed for 23 against Nottinghamshire, which left him eight adrift, Tony Middleton, of Hamp-

shire, will be the first to four figures if he scores 16 against Leicestershire at Grace Road today.

Curtis's third century of the season occupied five hours and he had been in for nearly six hours when he was caught off the persevering Croft, having hit 13 fours from 289 deliveries.

Middleton must have thought he would get an innings yesterday when Leicestershire lost their first four wickets for 101 against the championship leaders. But Briers stood firm, paving the

way for a vigorous assault from Potter (96), Nixon (94 not out) and Benjamin, who made 71 off 61 balls with eight fours and three sixes, which carried Leicestershire to 427 for seven.

David Ripley, the Northamptonshire wicketkeeper, maintained his remarkable improvement in his batting form with an unbeaten 107 to lead a recovery from 121 for five to 307 for eight against Somerset at Bath. His season's aggregate stands at 503 at an average of 83.

Holmes aims to finish in credit

Larry Holmes, who challenges Evander Holyfield for his world heavyweight title on Friday, is putting business first, Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, reports from Las Vegas

WHEN Larry Holmes uses words like balance, leverage, muscle, growth, weight, work rate, stamina and holding, it is not boxing he is talking about. It is money. The 42-year-old former world heavyweight champion is these days a businessman first, part-time boxer second.

He is happier in expensive suits than boxing trunks. Money is his only reason for his two comebacks, the first in 1988 when he was liquidated in four rounds by Mike Tyson and then, in 1991, about the time the other 42-year-old, George Foreman, was hauling in the money against Evander Holyfield in Atlantic City. Holmes formed his views about money even when he was a successful young boxer. Looking back on his bout with Earnie Shavers in 1978, just before his world title contest against Ken Norton, Holmes says: "I didn't care about making it. I just wanted to make a living. The reason I boxed wasn't for becoming a heavyweight champion but to have something so I could survive, and live comfortably."

"Don't you know that's why marriages don't work — when people don't have anything? Money's what causes problems. I just wanted to make a living."

He said of his bout with Tyson: "That was business. I thought I might have a chance to beat him but I wasn't sure I would. Not on two months' notice. But the money was there (\$3 million). I was building this building at the time and I made a business decision."

That view has not changed, even though Holmes is the richest man in Eastern Pennsylvania, with property worth \$14 million and holdings in a disco, a hotel, offices and a bank where his tenants are a bank and the Federal Court for eastern Pennsylvania, which has three jails. "I must be the only black guy in America to own a jail," he says.

He has a \$300,000 house with an indoor swimming pool shaped like a boxing glove and 17 cars. But money is still causing problems, the kind that beset businessmen during recession — cash flow problems. That is why on Friday he is challenging Holyfield — not so much for the undisputed world heavyweight title as for \$5 million. "Man, I caught my rainbow," he said.

Again it was a business decision. The shutters are coming down all around him in rundown Easton and businessmen are seeking cheaper office accommodation and his income is falling. That he is 42 and a grandfather of two, overweight and pear-shaped and is risking his health does not matter. He believes he can take care of himself. He must have been an admirer of that other pear-shaped heavyweight, Sydney Greenstreet, who said in one of his movies: "My man, money means more to me than my life; money means more to me than my life."

Holmes says: "All I was doing was signing bills and paying up cheques. I thought, 'This ain't me', then I used to watch the present group of guys fighting and I thought I could beat them and teach those youngsters a lesson."

After his collapse against Tyson, Holmes took stock of things. Two years later he started a structured comeback. He worked through five journeymen and then challenged Ray Mercer, who was the WBO champion, in February. After a few wobbly moments he fiddled the big man out of it. The World Boxing Organisation title did not mean much but it was just the sort of boxing collateral he needed for his next business venture — Holyfield.



Holmes: well invested

Warwick v Middlesex

COVENTRY (first day of three; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 284 runs behind Middlesex.

MIDDLESEX: First innings
D L Haynes c Piper b Twose 67
M A Roseberry c Small b Smith 117
M J Gattling c Roseberry b Twose 117
P W Weir c Small b Twose 3
J E Embury c Piper b Twose 2
C W Williams c Piper b Twose 2
A G C Fraser b Small 34
N A Ratcliffe c Piper b Twose 0
Extras (b 5, lb 11, w 10, nb 4) 30
Total (94.3 overs) 223
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-177, 3-189, 4-199, 5-210, 6-216, 7-222, 8-225, 9-297.
BOWLING: Donald 14-60-0, Small 15-3-45-3, Smith 17-43-0, Rose 7-2-26-2, Twose 27-10-63-6, Moles 9-20-1.
WARWICKSHIRE: First innings
J D Ratcliffe c Piper b Twose 10
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Somerset v Northants

BATH (first day of three; Somerset won toss): Somerset, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 287 runs behind Northamptonshire.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First innings
A J Fothergill c Mallett b Foster 3
P A Wilson c Mallett b Foster 3
J E Embury c Piper b Twose 2
C W Williams c Piper b Twose 2
A G C Fraser b Small 34
N A Ratcliffe c Piper b Twose 0
Extras (b 5, lb 11, w 10, nb 4) 30
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Gloucestershire v Kent

BRISTOL (first day of three; Gloucestershire won toss): Kent have scored 456 for eight wickets against Gloucestershire.

GLoucestershire: First innings
J D Ratcliffe c Piper b Twose 10
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Extras (b 5, lb 11, w 10, nb 4) 30
Total (94.3 overs) 223
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Leics v Hampshire

LEICESTERSHIRE (first day of three; Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 422 for seven wickets against Hampshire.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings
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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-177, 3-189, 4-199, 5-210, 6-216, 7-222, 8-225, 9-297.
BOWLING: Donald 14-60-0, Small 15-3-45-3, Smith 17-43-0, Rose 7-2-26-2, Twose 27-10-63-6, Moles 9-20-1.

GLoucestershire: First innings
J D Ratcliffe c Piper b Twose 10
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Sweden could suffer as Lineker attempts to break goalless sequence

England relying on their captain

FROM STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN STOCKHOLM

TODAY promises to be, above all, Gary Lineker's day. England's captain and footballer of the year will either retire from international football at the end of the European championship tie against Sweden here this evening or he will lead his nation into the semi-finals.

The chances are that he will score the goal that is the minimum requirement for England, who must win if they are to be certain of qualifying from group one. His innate sense of drama is almost as acute as his instincts inside the penalty area and he first demonstrated it for England in the World Cup in Mexico six years ago.

He established his global reputation by scoring all three goals against Poland in the closing tie of the first round. After rescuing England from ignominious elimination, he went on to finish as the competition's leading scorer, an achievement that convinced Barcelona to sign him.

Seven months ago he made an equally spectacular and timely contribution against the same opponents. Had it not been for his flying volley a dozen minutes from the end of the final qualifying tie in Poznan, England would not have been competing in the finals in Sweden.

Now he is preparing for his ultimate showdown. He is

destined either to be left one, irritating goal short of Bobby Charlton's national record of 49, or he could take his place in English football history. Should he fail, the penalty he missed against Brazil last month will forever haunt him.

Lineker is optimistic that his longest unproductive sequence for four years could be broken tonight. Although he agrees that the championship has so far featured teams who are "scared of making mistakes", he argues that the general approach must become more positive since the knockout stage has effectively been reached.

"I hope things open up," he said yesterday. "Football needs it, so do England." According to Graham Taylor, the manager, England's job was to fashion as many opportunities as possible for Lineker. His job was to take them but after three hours, he is still waiting for his first chance. He was surprised, too, to learn that the Swedes expected to guard him as the same Jan Eriksson who was promptly rejected by his own club, Tottenham Hotspur, after only one outing with the reserves in January. Leeds United and Sheffield United may offer him trials.

"They might have been impressed with his performances so far," Lineker said, "but they will look at him more closely in this game. I hope no one will be impressed." To expose Eriksson, though, he needs the assistance of colleagues selected in a suitably creative formation. Taylor will probably, as usual, spring one surprise but he is expected to revert to more or less his original line-up, which at least initially threatened the Danes. Since the Swedes attack principally with only one forward, Martin Dahlin, the sweeper system would clearly be redundant.

Carlton Palmer will therefore step forward into midfield and Paul Merson will probably step back into it to rejoin Trevor Steven and David Platt. Alan Shearer is likely to be replaced by Alan Smith, a more effective partner for Lineker, his former ally at Leicester City.

Who, though, will be the right back containing Anders Limpar? Keith Curle, so overawed against Denmark, cannot conceivably be recalled. Tony Dorico, the only other recognised full back in the



Day of destiny: Lineker prepares for tonight's key game with a brisk training session yesterday

party, professes to be uncomfortable if he is not on his favoured left flank. Andy Sinton could adequately fill the role but the destructive qualities of David Batty may unusually be used there instead.

Sadly, the constructive qualities of Neil Webb and Nigel Clough, neither of whom is blessed with natural speed, could again be kept in reserve.

Yet Taylor is nothing if not unpredictable. Days after inviting domestic viewers to "sit back and enjoy it", he insisted that the first round was bound to be dull and negative because of the format of a tournament in which no in-

centives are offered. Nobody could blame the hosts if they follow the pattern and play for the point they need to go through.

The tension may be prolonged. England, who have not won here since 1937, could yet be condemned to drawing lots with either France or Denmark. Whatever, they must score their first goal on Swedish soil for 27 years. Come the day, in Taylor's words, come the man. Enter Lineker — or, perhaps, exit England.

Beer tent closed, page 1
Letters, page 15
David Miller, page 30

PROBABLE TEAMS

SWEDEN			ENGLAND		
Team numbers listed before names	Age	Caps	Team numbers listed before names	Age	Caps
1 T RAVELLI (IFK Gothenburg)	32	80	1 C WOODS (Sheffield Wed)	32	33
2 R NILSSON (Sheffield Wed)	28	48	19 D BATTY (Leeds Utd)	23	9
3 J ERIKSSON (IFK Norrköping)	24	21	11 A SINTON (QPR)	28	5
4 F ANDERSSON (FF Malmö)	20	5	4 M KEOWN (Everton)	25	8
5 J BJORKLUND (SK Brann)	21	6	5 D WALKER (Sampdoria)	26	48
6 S SCHWARZ (Benfica)	23	15	3 S PEARCE (Nottm Forest)	30	49
7 K INGESSON (Mechelen)	23	24	8 T STEVEN (Marseille)	28	6
9 J THERN (Benfica)	25	33	12 C PALMER (Sheffield Wed)	28	6
10 A LIMPAR (Arsenal)	26	33	7 D PLATT (Barns)	25	31
11 T BROLIN (Parma)	22	18	16 P MERTON (Aston Villa)	24	6
17 M DAHLIN (B Monchengladbach)	24	10	10 G LINEKER (Tottenham Hotspur)	31	77
			17 A SMITH (Arsenal)	29	12

Referee: H Forstinger (Austria)

Calculators out for a lottery

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IF ENGLAND are to qualify for the semi-finals of the European championship, it may be more by luck than judgment. Fittingly perhaps, after the sterile football in the tournament so far, a lottery is looming to decide who advances from group one.

A victory against the Swedes would brook no argument, for England would automatically go through to the knockout stages. So, too, would a win for the Swedes, the group leaders, as it would put England on a plane home. However, a 1-1 draw could leave Graham Taylor and his team crossing their fingers and hoping for the best.

As in the World Cup finals two years ago, when the system was first used, lots will be drawn if points, goal difference and goals scored all fail to separate England from either France or Denmark. Then Holland and the Republic of Ireland went into the hat after three group games failed to separate them: now, either France or Denmark could finish exactly level with England.

Much, inevitably, depends on events in Malmö this evening, where the French meet the Danes. If England do

draw 1-1 with Sweden, a goalless draw in Malmö would put them in the hat with France as Denmark would be eliminated: a 1-0 win for Denmark would maintain their chances while putting France out of the running. In either case, England's record of three points from three matches with one goal scored and one conceded would be equalled elsewhere — a mathematician's delight.

For Sweden, with a win already under their belts, have a much simpler task. Simply by avoiding defeat in Stockholm tonight, they will be among the final four. Taylor and England must envy them such a straightforward equation.

PREVIOUS MATCHES

England's results v Sweden

1947: 4-2 (Highbury)	1948: 1-3 (Stockholm)
1950: 0-0 (Stockholm)	1952: 2-3 (Wembley)
1955: 2-1 (Gothenburg)	1958: 3-1 (Wembley)
1970: 0-0 (Stockholm)	1978: 0-0 (Stockholm)
1982: 0-1 (Stockholm)	1986: 0-0 (Wembley, WC)
1988: 0-0 (Stockholm, WC)	

WC: World Cup

Record against Sweden

P	W	D	L	F	A
13	8	4	3	23	14

Navratilova's presence a threat to Seles

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE formidable presence of Martina Navratilova looms over Monica Seles as she prepares to take to the Wimbledon grass for the first time in two years. Seles, the No. 1 seed, who is aiming to complete the third leg of a grand slam after winning the Australian and French Opens, was drawn yesterday to meet Navratilova in the semi-final.

If the nine-times champion needs any extra motivation during the early rounds next week, after her surprise defeat at Eastbourne yesterday, the prospect of playing the world No. 1 for a place in her twelfth final will surely provide it.

On grass, Navratilova would certainly fancy her chances, despite the 16-year age difference and her lack of match practice. In the other semi-final, Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini, could stage a repeat of last year's final, giving the Argentinian a welcome opportunity for revenge. She had the tide at her mercy a year ago.

Seles, though, might not care to look further than her first round match against Jenny Byrne, a finalist at the Dow Classic last week. Australians on grass are never easy, and Seles will be aware of her vulnerability in her first match at Wimbledon since the quarter-final against Zina Garrison in 1990.

Mindful of her own fallibility against Elna Reinach in the opening round last year, Navratilova will not view her first opponent, Magdalena Maleeva, as a foregone conclusion either, though the Bulgarian has won just one match in two years at Wimbledon.

In the men's singles, neither Jim Courier, the top seed, nor Boris Becker will be delighted with their opening round matches. Not many people hit the ball harder than Courier, but Markus Zöcke, a 6ft 5in Berliner, has one of the biggest serves on the tour and will give the American a rude awakening after the more somnolent patterns of Roland Garros. Courier, also aiming for his third successive grand slam title, might need a set to readjust his time clock.

Two other Americans,

David Wheaton and John McEnroe, are in Courier's section, with Michael Chang or Guy Forget potential quarter-finalists and Becker, who has never lost to the world No. 1, in the last four.

Given that he has to be on his best behaviour after another fine at the French Open, McEnroe has a potentially explosive encounter with another former Wimbledon champion, Pat Cash, in the second round. Becker, who plays Omar Camporese, will recall an epic match with the Italian at the Australian Open last year. The German won 14-12 in the fifth set and will be hoping for a rather more straightforward passage this time.

With the last two champions, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg, drawn to meet each other in the semi-final, and three other fancied contenders — Goran Ivanisevic, Pete Sampras and Richard Krajicek — all in the bottom half, Courier and Becker will be thankful for small mercies.

Stich will open the defence of his title against another Italian, Stefano Pescosolido. The third seed will feel much more confident after winning his first title of the year in Rosmalen last week and there are no obvious pitfalls on his way to a quarter-final against either Krajicek or Sampras. On the other hand, Ivan Lendl, seeded tenth, his lowest at Wimbledon since 1980, must wonder what he has done wrong. Last week, he was beaten at Queen's by Patrik Kuhnen. Yesterday, he was drawn against the German in the first round.

Andre Agassi, back to the scene of his triumph last year, plays Andrei Chesnokov, while Sampras opens against Andrei Cherkasov. Neither of the Russians has won a round in six attempts at Wimbledon.

Of the 18 British players in the main draw — 11 women and seven men — Jeremy Bates has the most difficult task, against Chang, the seventh seed. But if he could choose a surface on which to play the little American, it would be grass.

Roehampton report, page 33

Botham's fitness causes concern

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IAN Botham spent yesterday at Lord's on the treatment table rather than in the practice nets and his fitness for the second Test match, which starts tomorrow, is still being taken on trust rather than on firm evidence.

Botham, aged 36, strained his groin while bowling during the first Test at Edgbaston. He has not missed a match for Durham but neither has he bowled since last Friday, when his 14 overs against Essex were punished by his England captain, Graham Gooch.

It is plainly, however, through the faith of Gooch that Botham remains uncovered in an England party where he holds the pivotal role and the captain stressed again yesterday that he believes the problem will be overcome.

But Botham, it must be faced, is beyond the super-

man years of his career and, as nobody else in the 13, with the arguable exception of Chris Lewis, is capable of filling the all-rounder's position at No. 6, the possibility must remain that a replacement will be summoned from a county game today.

Micky Stewart, the team manager, said: "It was decided Ian should not practice to be on the safe side. He is confident that he will be OK on Thursday but he will need to bowl tomorrow."

One man who is making a rapid return to fitness is Phil Tufnell, a surprise addition to the England practice, only four weeks after an emergency appendix operation. Tufnell hopes to be back in the Middlesex team on Friday and the third Test, at Old Trafford, remains a feasible target.

More cricket, page 32

Johnson opts for 200 metres in Barcelona

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Johnson, the 200-metres world champion, announced the decision yesterday that the athletics world has been waiting to learn when he said that he would contest only the 200 metres at the Olympic Games instead of trying for a 200/400 metres double.

Johnson, who is also the acknowledged world No. 1 over the longer distance, was critical of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) which, he said, had failed to respond to his request for changes to, and information about, the Olympic schedule.

"The IAAF had been trying

to talk me into doing both and I considered it," Johnson told *The Times* from his home in Waco, Texas. "They said they would get back to me on the schedule changes I would need in order to do both and they never did. Our Olympic trials start at the end of this week, so it got to the point where I had to make a decision one way or the other. I could not continue to wait for them to decide what they were going to do."

The original Olympic timetable had scheduled the finals of both events for the same day but it was altered in Stuttgart last November, though this change seems not to have filtered through to all athletes and national Olympic associations. But

even the new timetable, which moved the 200-metres final a day later, was not enough to convince Johnson he should try for the double.

It leaves less than two and a half hours between the semi-finals of the 200 metres and the final of the 400 metres. "If the double is going to be done you should be finished with one race before you start another," Johnson said. "That is the way all the others are done — that is the way with the 5,000 and 10,000 metres."

In Rome last week Johnson's sequence of 31 successive 200-metres victories was ended by Frankie Fredericks, of Namibia. But this, he said, had played no part in his decision to con-

centrate on one event. Roger Black, Britain's European 400-metres champion and world silver medal winner, thinks it may have, however.

"I am not surprised by Michael's decision," Black said. "It was always going to be a difficult challenge for him but the fact that Quincy Watts ran 44.00sec and that Steve Lewis and Danny Everett [all Americans] are looking in good shape, and also the fact that he got beaten over 200 metres last week, has changed things a bit."

"I don't think the fact that Michael is missing is going to detract from the 400 metres. There is a world of difference in him running a one-off 400 and four races in five days at the Olympics."

So the task of beating Johnson is left with the likes of Linford Christie and John Regis, the European 200 metres champion. Regis said yesterday that Johnson's defeat by Fredericks had "taken away his aura of invincibility".

Regis had a disappointing world championships after his memorable 1990 European championships, in which he won four medals. For that he blamed his coach, John Isaacs, and has now switched to Black's coach, Mike Whittingham. "I am feeling so much better now," Regis said, adding that he felt the gold medal was within his reach.



Johnson: has decided

Olympians prepare, page 33

BREITLING
1884

AEROSPACE,
analogue and digital chronograph.
18C white gold, titanium bicolour, titanium.
Leather strap or metal bracelet.

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

LONDON STOCKISTS:
JAMES HARRIS & SONS, 15, ABchurch Lane, LONDON E.C.4A. (Near St. Paul's Cathedral).
JAMES HARRIS & SONS, 15, ABchurch Lane, LONDON E.C.4A. (Near St. Paul's Cathedral).
JAMES HARRIS & SONS, 15, ABchurch Lane, LONDON E.C.4A. (Near St. Paul's Cathedral).

OUTSIDE LONDON:
ABchurch Lane, LONDON E.C.4A. (Near St. Paul's Cathedral).
ABchurch Lane, LONDON E.C.4A. (Near St. Paul's Cathedral).
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AS YOU LIKE IT: Catherin Harman

and Peter Pan find true love in the forest. Harman's first play, *Open Air*, is a comedy about a young man who falls in love with a girl who is a girl.

SCOTTISH OPERA: The company's touring repertoire offers the revival of *Macbeth*, updated to the time of the work, and designed by William G. D. Macdonald. American soprano Priscilla Kaskas will sing the title role and Sally Burgess sings Anna.

Theatre Royal, 100 Grey Street, Newcastle 101-232 0561, eve, 7.30pm.

PHILHARMONIA: James Gahway gives the London premiere of Dave Heath's new flute concerto, *Cy from the West*, in a programme with Brahms' *Symphony No. 9*.

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 017-638 8891, 7.30pm.

BEASTIE BOYS/ROLLINS BAND: The band who reminded us of our night to party co-headline with former Black Flag front man, Henry Rollins, in a hard-hitting double bill.

Barrowlands, Glasgow 041-552 4601, tonight, 7.30pm. Hummingbird, Birmingham 021-236 4256, tomorrow, 7.30pm. Academy, Manchester 061-275 2930, Fri, 7.30pm. Town & Country Club, London NW5 071-284 0303, Sat, 7.30pm.

SANTANA: The group offers Afro-Latin guitar tapestries with a South American edge.

Hammerstein's Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 081-748 4081, tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

ASPECTS OF LOVE: Sarah Brightman in last week of David Webb's popular success before a national tour.

Prince of Wales, Coventry Square, W1 071-839 5972, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE BLUE ANGEL: Kelly Hunter and Philip Madoc in Trevor Nunn's riveting staging: angel of desire becomes the demon of destruction.

Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 071-404 5065, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ayl Dorland's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge.

Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 071-404 5065, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

THE GHOST SONG: Strindberg's weird vision of human greed becomes a fascinating evocation of the young man's soul.

New End, 27 New End, NW1 071-794 0023, Tue-Sun, 7.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins. Final week.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shakespeare's state-of-the-art drama.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 071-580 0001, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR: Invisibly dance-worthy evocation of the joys of social soul music.

Young Vic, 56 The Cut, SE1 071-928 6363, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

A JUDGEMENT IN STONE: Inevitable thriller based on a Rendell novel. Sheila Hancock leads a strong cast.

Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 081-741 3111, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Sat, 4pm. 135mins.

JOHNNY SUED: Lovable urban fantasy about a lone innocent (Brad Pitt) discovering love while drawing hostility of success as a pop star.

Camden Place 071-485 2433, Chelsea 071-351 3742/3743, Sat 071-727 4043, London 071-485 0691, MGM Oxford Street 071-436 0310.

STRAIGHT TALK: Daily Paron as a chatty Arkansas divorcee who comes to town and has the big time.

Camden Place 071-485 2433, Chelsea 071-351 3742/3743, Sat 071-727 4043, London 071-485 0691, MGM Oxford Street 071-436 0310.

THE ADJUSTER: Alton Ego's usual tale of voyeurism, fantasy and displaced persons; visually seductive but hollow. Elias Koteas, Arlene Khanjian.

Metro 071-437 0757.

BASIC INSTINCT (18): San Francisco detective Michael Douglas and his wife, murder suspect Sharon Stone ride a sordid psycho-sexual rollercoaster.

Director, Paul Verhoeven. Barbecot 071-538 8871, MGM Baker Street 071-935 9772, MGM Chelsea 071-352 5096, MGM Piccadilly 071-505 0310, MGM Tottenham 071-434 0031, Odeon Kensington 071-436 0310, Odeon Leicester Square 071-436 0310, Odeon Shaftesbury Avenue 071-436 0310, Odeon Tottenham 071-434 0031, Odeon Leicester Square 071-436 0310, Odeon Shaftesbury Avenue 071-436 0310.

THE FIVE HEARTBEATS (15): Blind but good-natured wife of a black rock 'n' roll group's American journey.

Robert Townsend directs, black, and stars with Michael Wright, Tico Wells.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LARRY ADLER: Sure-fire entertainment from the energetic, warm-hearted and raconteur. *Plaza on the Park*, Kingsbridge, London SW1 071-235 5550, tonight, Sat, 7.30pm.

MAREVA AND MONTMARNASSE: Mareva began her life in Kazan and ended it in Isling, Gorky gave her her name ("daughter of the sea") and her father with Diego Rivera gave her a child. In Montmarnasse between 1912 and 1942 she knew everyone, from Picasso to Foytla and Modigliani to Soutine. An important painter in her own right, she recorded the scenes and the people in her distinctive style.

Between Cubist structure and Pontiliste use of colour. This centenary show, organised with the Musée du Petit Palais, Geneva, includes a generous selection of her best works, as well as portraits of her by Picasso and Foytla and rare works from the emigre Russians in Paris at that time.

Wildenstein, 147 New Bond Street, London W1 071-420 0602, Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, opens today-Sat, 10am-6pm.

RE-HUNTED AT THE MEAN FIDDLERS: Musical comedy in a good cause with night's topping courtesy of The Nutty Boys, featuring former Madness ravers. *The Nutty Boys*, tomorrow, Sat, 8pm, 150mins. In partnership with Trans-mission four-piece Earlap and Trans-mission.

SOME LIKE IT HOT: But what we get is a burlesque. Tony Stone in poster musical version of the film. Prince Edward, Old Common, W1 071-734 8951, tonight, 7.45pm, mat, Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 105mins.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dargill and Carmel McSherry in likeable comedy about a doctor's wife's women, notably her gay son. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, W1 071-436 0310, tonight, 7.30pm, mat, Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 130mins.

THE VIKINGUS: Shakespeare's Restoration comedy of bad behaviour in the home of a bawling swain, reworked with a new cast featuring Simon Caddell, John Wells and Richard Kane. Theatrical, Church Street, Leamington 01923 671123, tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow, Sat, 8pm, mat, tomorrow, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY ALMIGHTY: Giles Haverall's terrific production, adapted from the Graham Greene novel, is reworked with a new cast featuring Simon Caddell, John Wells and Richard Kane. Theatrical, Church Street, Leamington 01923 671123, tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow, Sat, 8pm, mat, tomorrow, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA: Alfred Molina and a superb Ellen Atkins in Tennessee Williams's play on the effects of sexual repression. National (Guthrie), South Bank, W1 071-538 2252, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Sat, 2.15pm. 160mins.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his coming out. Excellent revival of Brian Friel's first success. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 071-236 1919, Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 2.30pm. 120mins.

THE RECKONING OFFICER: Nicholas Hytner's good-natured production, rather too good to be true. The play's darker corners. National (Olivier), South Bank, W1 071-538 2252, tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat, Sat, 2pm. 165mins.

THE RULES OF THE GAME: Richard Attenborough and a superb Ellen Atkins in Tennessee Williams's play on the effects of sexual repression. National (Guthrie), South Bank, W1 071-538 2252, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Sat, 2.15pm. 160mins.

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A SUEP OF THE TONGUE: A woffish John Malkovich in a lightweight drama that seeks to elevate his-torical discourse with getting girls into bed. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 071-379 3599, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 8.30pm. 150mins.

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THE RECKONING OFFICER: Nicholas Hytner's good-natured production, rather too good to be true. The play's darker corners. National (Olivier), South Bank, W1 071-538 2252, tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat, Sat, 2pm. 165mins.

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The voice of all our yesterdays

After a lifetime of waiting for a glimpse of his hero, Douglas Adams compiles a hitchhiker's guide to Paul McCartney, who has his fiftieth birthday tomorrow

I vaguely remember my schooldays. They were what was going on in the background while I was trying to listen to the Beatles.

When "Can't Buy Me Love" came out I was 12. I sneaked out of school during morning milk break, bought the record and broke into my room because she had a record player. Then I played it, not loud enough to get caught, but just loud enough to hear with my ear pressed against the speaker. Then I played it again for the other ear. Then I turned the record over and did the same for "You Can't Do That". That was when the housemaster found me and put me into detention, which is what I had expected. It seemed a small price to pay for what I now realise was Art. I didn't know it was Art then, of course. I only knew that the Beatles were the most exciting thing in the universe. It wasn't always an easy view to live with. First you had to fight the Stones fans, which was tricky because they fought dirty and had their knuckles nearer the ground. Then you had to fight the grown-ups: parents and teachers who said that you were wasting your time and pocket money on rubbish that you would have forgotten by next week.

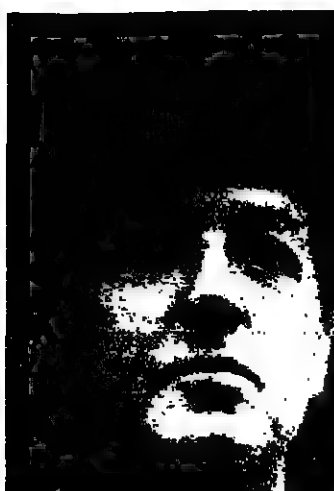
I found it hard to understand why they were telling me this. I sang in the school choir and knew how to listen for harmony and counterpoint, and it was clear to me that the Beatles were doing something extraordinarily clever. It bewildered me that no one else could hear it: impossible harmonies and part playing you had never heard in pop songs before. The Beatles were obviously just putting all this

stuff in for some secret fun of their own, and it seemed exciting to me that people could have fun in that way.

The next exciting thing was that they kept on losing me. They would bring out a new album and for a few listenings it would leave me cold and confused. Then gradually it would begin to unravel itself in my mind. I would realise that the reason I was confused was that I was listening to something that was simply unlike anything that anybody had done before: "Another Girl", "Good Day Sunshine" and the extraordinary "Drive My Car". These tracks are so familiar now that it takes a special effort of will to remember how alien they seemed at first to be. The Beatles were now not just writing songs, they were inventing the very medium in which they were working.

I never got to see them. Difficult to believe, I know, I was alive at the time that the Beatles were performing and never got to see them. I tend to go on about this rather a lot. Do not go to San Francisco with me or I will insist on pointing out Candlestick Park to you and beating on about the fact that in 1966 the Beatles played their last concert there, just shortly before I'd woken up to the fact that rock concerts were things you actually could go to, even if you lived in Brentwood.

A friend of mine at school once had some studio tickets to see David Frost's show being recorded, but we ended up not going. I watched the show that night and the Beatles were on it playing "Hey Jude". I was ill for about a year. Another day that I happened not to go up to London after all was the day they played their rooftop concert in Savile Row. I can't even speak about that.



YESTERDAY.

Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away,
now it looks as though they're here to stay,
oh I believe in yesterday.

Top: Changing faces of McCartney, from mid-Sixties to early Nineties, including (second left, bottom row) Humphrey Ocean's portrait. Below: McCartney's manuscript original of "Yesterday"

leg off in order to go. I went. In front of two hundred people in a pub, Paul McCartney stood up and played songs he'd never, I think, played in public before. "Here, There and Everywhere" and "Blackbird" to name but two.

I've played "Blackbird" in pubs, for heaven's sake. I spent weeks learning the guitar part when I was supposed to be revising for A-levels. I almost wondered if I was hallucinating. There were, though, two mo-

men of complete astonishment. One was the last encore, which was an immaculate, thunderous performance of, believe it or not, "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band". (Remember, this was in a pub.) And the other was one of the

world's greatest rock 'n' roll songs, "Can't Buy Me Love", which I had first heard crowding with my car copped to the Danes, record player in the school matron's room.

There is a game people like to play, which goes "When would you most like to have lived and why?" The Italian Renaissance? Mozart's Vienna? Shakespeare's England? Personally I would like to have been around Bach. But I have a real difficulty with the game, which is that living at any other period of history would have meant missing the Beatles and I honestly don't think I could do that. Mozart and Bach and Shakespeare are always with us, but I grew up with the Beatles and I'm not sure what else has affected me as much as that.

So Paul McCartney is 50 tomorrow. Happy birthday, Paul. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Paul McCartney's birthday will be celebrated all day on BBC Radio 2 tomorrow, and also in the London area on Capital Gold.

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

Startling in his orthodoxy

Stephen Pettitt talks to the composer John Tavener about his first venture into opera.

Mary of Egypt, which will be given its world premiere at Aldeburgh this Friday

A thin pencil of a figure, looking older than his 48 years, John Tavener is a devoted member of the Eastern Orthodox Church. In the coming months this reclusive but charming man, whose "cello concerto" *The Protecting Veil* has become something of a cult success after his 1989 Proms premiere, has four first performances at festivals around Britain.

Besides the opera *Mary of Egypt* at Aldeburgh, there will be *The Last Sleep of the Virgin* for string quartet and handbells on July 15 in Cheltenham, a choral work, *We Shall See Him As He Is*, in Chester on July 18 and at the

PREVIEW

Proms on July 23, and *Village Wedding*, for the Hilliard Ensemble in Glamorgan on August 28. All have religious, indeed specifically Orthodox, connections. Has he always been a religious person? "No, not as a child. The revelatory experience was my first performance in 1956 of Stravinsky's *Canticle of St Mark* in St Mark's, Venice. With hindsight, that piece seemed to capture in its 12 minutes something of the Byzantine spirit. It's the nearest Western man has got to what I mean by sacred music. And then I began writing pieces which sped its style."

Simplicity remains essential to Tavener's art. "I have difficulty with the West. Western music is so mundane. The melodic line doesn't seem as interesting as in eastern music. I'd like gradually to get rid of harmony. I'm in danger of being ridiculous, I realise. But to return to the sacred I have to go by that path."

"It would be interesting to



John Tavener in the marshes at Snape, where *Mary of Egypt* will be premiered

see what a sixth century man could make of my music. That would tell me how sacred it was. Sacred art's got nothing to do with centuries."

The subject of the new opera is a fourth century prostitute and saint whose younger life is spent whoring in Alexandria. She travels with pilgrims to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. But when she comes to the church door she cannot enter. "She falls at the feet of the icon of the Mother of God, and is told to go into the desert, where she lives for 40 years, not seeing anybody, eating virtually nothing, until a so-called holy man, Zossima, discovers her. In discovering her, his life is changed too."

Tavener was haunted by the story for a long time, uncertain of how it could be depicted on stage. "I wanted an almost childlike libretto. Then I came

into contact with Mother Thekla (Abbess of the Greek Orthodox Monastery in Normandy, Yorkshire, who's now my spiritual adviser, confidante and, for this opera, librettist. She talked about the apparent vice of Mary and the apparent goodness of Zossima. He had pride, which was blocking his love. Though Mary was whoring she at least knew love, even though she was misdirecting it."

What about the music? As is often the case, Tavener's concept seems startlingly simple. "When Mary's whoring in Egypt she doesn't sing any words, just very beautiful melisma. On the other hand Zossima is almost comically verbose. The words and music are very simple, all loosely based on a Byzantine hymn. "The nearer Zossima gets to Mary's orbit, his stiffness be-

comes less, and when he actually enters her presence in the desert his sound world is absorbed by hers. There's a sort of love duet, where they ask for each other's blessing. He has understood what love is by meeting with her, and he can therefore love God."

Tavener was gravely ill last year and needed heart surgery. "I could have died during the operation." Had he been prepared for his confrontation with mortality? "No, not really. I think of death a lot. The fathers of the Orthodox church say you should live every moment of your life as if it were your last, and the experience gave me some idea of what that really feels like."

• *Mary of Egypt* will be performed in the Snape Concert Hall on Friday, and again on June 24, at 7.30. (Aldeburgh Foundation Box Office, 0728 454076)

Beggars and mad ladies

ALDEBURGH REVIEW

Since the deaths of Britten and Pears, the Aldeburgh Festival has concerned itself with constant renewal rather than indulgent nostalgia. So it was appropriate that the London Sinfonietta should have featured in the first weekend of this year's festival, which also coincided with the 40th birthday of its conductor here, Oliver Knussen. Cue Stravinsky's version of *Happy Birthday To You*. After that, commented Knussen, his own *Ophelia Dances* (1975) would "sound terrible".

Of course it did not; it never does, especially with a performance so alive to all its subtle changes of colour, direction, and mood. The Sinfonietta gave an equally good account of Knussen's *Songs Without Words*, completed last April.

This elegant piece, scored for mixed octet, showed that Knussen has retained his penchant for rich scoring and lyrical lines. He teases a little here: while the fourth piece, "Elegiac Arabesque", blooms from a lovely cor anglais melody composed on hearing of Andrzej Panufnik's death, the other three, nearly as beautiful, are poems set syllable by syllable, but with the texts then removed.

Besides Knussen's work, there was another British piece, Colin Matthews's *Suns Dance* (1985). This extraordinary, extended explosion (now something of a party piece for the Sinfonietta) made its usual thrilling effect. It quite eclipsed Henri Dutilleul's *Dipsyque - Les Citations*. Much more effective was Poul Ruders's *Four Compositions* (1980). It

spoke of an already determined and original talent, at least after the rather over-thorough Variations movement with which it began. A complex Scherzo, a rugged yet serene Plainsong and a positive, dramatic *Sortie* all showed sureness of touch and, importantly, an ability to communicate directly.

This wonderfully varied but badly attended concert was followed the next evening by Britten's clever realisation of John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, made for the English Opera Group in 1948. Apart from Declan Mulholland's performance as The Beggar - a degree too ragged in the small matter of announcing the right scene - this was a slick performance. Philip Langridge's Machbeth was cynical, chauvinistic and sly; Ann Murray's Polly and Yvonne Kenny's Lucy scowled with feline fury at each other, while Anne Collins and Robert Lloyd were jovially corrupt as Mr and Mrs Peachum, and

John Rawnsley's Lockit was every inch the wide boy. The conductor Stuart Bedford wisely allowed no tarrying.

Sunday evening saw a typically fine programme given by the New London Chamber Choir under James Wood. Perhaps the four Italian madrigals by Heinrich Schütz were too ambitious for the five solo voices assigned to each. But thereafter, riches came upon riches. Brahms's *Five Songs*. Op 104, were delivered with a fulsome sound by the entire choir, while the challenge of Dallapiccola's boldly coloured *Due cori di Michelangelo Buonarroti di Giovanni*, from 1933, was equally well met.

Yet harder tests came in the second half: the richly sustained Byzantine edifice of John Tavener's *Hymn to the Holy Spirit*; Stravinsky's hazardous *The Dove Descending Breaks the Air*; Lipeti's onomatopoeic *Night and Morning*; and Hungarian Studies. The NLCC sang with colours ablaze, and crowned it all with Messiaen's exquisite motet *O Sacram Convivium*.

STEPHEN PETTITT

"RICHARD EYRE'S marvellous new production"
Financial Times

"ELEEN ATRINS...altogether wonderful"
Mail on Sunday

"An absolutely knockout performance by ALFRED MOLINA"
Observer

THE NIGHT of the IGUANA

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

"FRANCES BARBER...impressively joyful"
Observer

"ROBIN BAILEY...unbeatable"
Sunday Express

"ON ALL ACCOUNTS, SEE IT"
Financial Times

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ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

BOX OFFICE

FIRST CALL

Deutsche director

In Berlin the Deutsche Oper in Berlin has appointed the German-Spanish conductor Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos as its general music director for five years from August 1993. He succeeds Giuseppe Sinopoli. The recent history of the Deutsche Oper has been troubled, with a rumoured rift between Sinopoli and the company's general director, Götz Friedrich, who will continue in his position.

Last chance...

THE Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, *Aspects of Love*, will have notched up an impressive 1,325 performances by Saturday when it ends its three-year residence at the Prince of Wales (071-839 5972). Sarah Brightman sings Rose at all of this week's performances except for today's matinee when the role will be sung by Clare Burt.

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From lover to blockbuster

Matt Wolf talks to the French director Jean-Jacques Annaud, whose new film based on a novel by Marguerite Duras will be seen in Britain this week

A slow-burning romance set in 1920s Indo-China might seem like dubious material for a blockbuster film. That prospect sounds even more unlikely coming from a novelist — 78-year-old French writer Marguerite Duras — whose past screen work (*Hiroshima Mon Amour*, *Moderato Cantabile*, among others) has drawn critical acclaim and cult appeal, but never widespread commercial success.

Still, Jean-Jacques Annaud, who has filmed Duras' 1984 novel *The Lover* (*L'Amant*) for the screen, has surprised the world before. His first film, *Black and White in Colour* (1977), a witty satire on colonial French West Africa made for a mere \$500,000, beat the much heralded *Cousin, Cousine* to win the Oscar for best foreign film.

In 1986, Annaud turned Umberto Eco's metaphysical thriller *The Name of the Rose* into an international hit that did well virtually everywhere except America. In *Quest for Fire* (1981), set 80,000 years ago, Annaud invented a new language. Clearly, he is a man who follows his own instincts — and, by and large, has been right to do so.

"I'm not trying to satisfy one public or another," Annaud, a gregarious 49-year-old, said during a recent visit to London. "I just do films based on my taste." That taste, as he defines it, runs toward big and ambitious films like his recent *The Bear*. "I want to do my stories but with the same tools as my colleagues from Los Angeles. I want to be able to put on to the large screen something of the same nature as they do."

Not for Annaud the jewel-like moral parables of an Eric Rohmer, or the distilled vision of a Bertrand

Tavernier (*Sunday in the Country*). Annaud tends towards expansion, not contraction, which may be why *The Lover* is a \$30m (£16m) movie that has already grossed triple that amount, not a precious art-house film seen by a minority public. Bearing that in mind, it is no surprise to hear that he was jealous of Bernardo Bertolucci when the Oscar-winning Italian director was signed to film *The Last Emperor*.

"I come from a country that regards cinema as an art," says Annaud, "where too many films just don't play any more. If they don't play, they die, because the cinema has to play somewhere." As an example, he cites "a film I adore" — Alain Cavalier's *Thérèse* (1986), the austere account of a 19th-century nun who died at the age of 24. "That was a subject made for \$200,000, but there are many subjects you cannot do for \$200,000. *Thérèse* has been seen by a very limited audience in small cinemas around the world, and that's frustrating." Annaud's only analogous experience was with his little-known second film, *Coup de Tête*, a satire on French provincial life starring the late Patrick Dewaere.

With *The Lover*, Annaud guarded against a film "that would be suitable only for scholars." Drawn to the material by its emphasis on a woman — a 15-year-old French girl (played by Jane March, a Briton) who falls for a 32-year-old Chinese man (Tony Leung) — he liked the combination of an intimate story and a majestic Asian setting. The filming itself took six months, double the shoot of *Quest for Fire*, and it was one of the first significant western films to be made on location in Vietnam.

How did the director fare with



The Young Girl and the China Man: Jane March and Tony Leung in *The Lover*, with the director Jean-Jacques Annaud on the left

his illustrious novelist? Annaud smiles: "With Marguerite, a typical day would be kisses, kisses, then shout, shout, shout. It's 'I hate you!' followed by 'I love you!'. 'I don't want to have my name on the film', and then, 'Why is my name so small?'"

But Annaud says Duras understood that this was film-making on a scale which she herself would never have tackled. "Her own films are unique, almost experimental, and that for her is the only possible way. At the same time, she realises there are other ways of shooting films, and she wanted something

that was not typical of Marguerite Duras."

The only child of a railway administrator, Annaud recalls growing up "in a little world" obsessed with the cinema. "I got my first still camera at seven, my first movie camera at eleven. But much like Marguerite, she was going to be a writer when she hadn't read more than two or three books. I had only seen ten or so films."

While his parents hoped to see him in a "safe and nice" profession like engineering, Annaud attended the Sorbonne and two Paris film

schools, and began his career in commercials. "You name it, I've filmed it," Annaud says of that period when, he recalls, he was making one commercial a week for ten years.

During that time, he met Britons like Alan Parker, Adrian Lyne, and Ridley and Tony Scott, and it is those directors — all commercially orientated — with whom he feels the greatest affinities. Unlike most of them, though, Annaud has never uprooted to Hollywood, and he remains convinced that distance is best. "I like the fact that I can go there,

be offered screenplays, get money from them, and then go back to my farm," says Annaud, who lives with his wife and two daughters in the countryside 60 miles south of Paris. "The danger in Los Angeles is that you only see people in the industry, and you don't do films about life. You do films about films because you're in that sort of bubble."

"My job is to feel free," he says. "I like picking the subjects I want and going wherever I want, without the house in Malibu and breakfast in the Polo Lounge."

David Robinson will review *The Lover* tomorrow.

THEATRE IN FRANCE

French farceurs joke on

A new generation has discovered Georges Courteline and Sacha Guitry

small group of talented young actors called the "Sraopontins coquins" (The Naughty Buskers) are staging a group of Courteline and Guitry one-acters. The production is simplicity itself (the minimal scenery is credited to Pablo Vidal) but the results are charming. Standing out in the cast is a tall string bean of a fellow, Dominique Pozzetto, who plays a dizzying variety of roles, including the reluctant employee Mr. Badin, and the house guest Mr. Des Rillettes in Courteline's *Les Boulingrins*. The name Des Rillettes has a comic ring in the French, combining an attempt at nobility with a common kitchen item, like Sir Hash Browns or Lord de Klippers might sound to an English ear. When Des Rillettes

announces his name to a maid (engagingly played by Nathalie Lapeyronnie), she bursts into a fit of giggles, crying, "I've heard worse! In my village there was a man named Mr Cowfoot!" Des Rillettes arrives as a house guest expecting pampering, but his host, expertly played by Vincent Andrieu, turns out to have a hellish relationship with his wife (overplayed by Isabelle Parys). Courteline's guest ends up like a battered child, a victim of domestic misery — potentially tragic material, like most of this superb farceur's writings.

Not so the Sacha Guitry piece at the Alceon, about a playwright (Eric Pena) who fires an impassive actress (Isabelle Parys, overplaying again). This requires high style to cope with Guitry's immense urbanity and insider's theatrical humour, which much influenced Noël Coward. Here the young actors were not quite up to conveying the variety of tone demanded by Guitry's elegant bitching and subtle, refined tantrums. But for the most part, the show was a breezy amusement, and actors like Dominique Pozzetto, Nathalie Lapeyronnie and Vincent

Andrieu will be heard from again. For those unable to get as far as the rue du Général Blaise in the 11th arrondissement, the *Pensées* of Guitry and Courteline have been published in separate volumes by Cherche-Midi Editions in Paris (175pp and 191pp respectively, both FF68). A readable choice of Courteline's plays has been made by Dominique Geurruin for *école des loisirs* publishers (90pp, FF23), and an affectionate biography of Guitry by Dominique Desanti has recently appeared from *Libre de Poche* Editions (512pp, FF34). All required reading for fans of these immortal French farces.

BENJAMIN IVRY



Versatile: Dominique Pozzetto

Test your knowledge of Paris and the Parisians in today's competition

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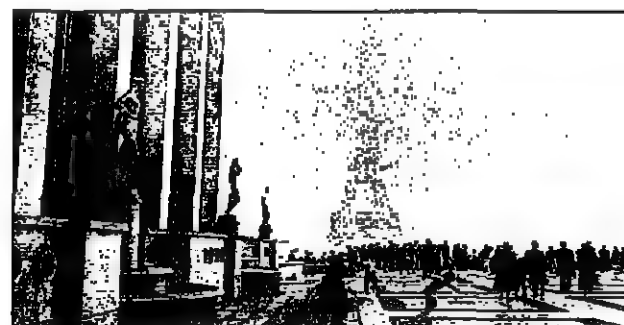


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Inviting vista: enjoy the capital's renowned glories

Luxury in Paris

This is the third day *The Times*, in association with T.A.T. European Airlines and Copthorne Hotels, is giving you the chance to win one of five luxury two night breaks in Paris.

The five winners of today's competition and their partners will be flown by T.A.T. European Airlines, the major French independent airline, to Charles de Gaulle Airport. On board complimentary drinks and a light snack will be served with a copy of *The Times*.

In Paris today's winners and their partners will stay for two nights in the four star Hotel Copthorne Charles de Gaulle. The hotel has a sports leisure complex and is near to Euro Disney, Parc Astérix and Villepinet Expo Centre.

Today's winners will also receive two complimentary tickets to visit the Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace.

To enter, simply answer the three questions below and telephone our competition line on 0891 700 149 before midnight tonight. You will be asked to give your answers, leave your name, address and telephone number. Calls cost 36p per minute at cheap rate and 48p per minute at all other times. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight and notified

THE QUESTIONS

1. Where was Marie Antoinette imprisoned?
2. What is the oldest bridge in Paris?
3. What is the name of the island on which Notre Dame stands?

Monday's answers are:
1. Fokker
2. St. Denis
3. 300 metres (984 feet)

The winners are: Mrs A. Thomson, Cambridge; Mr J.P. De Courcy Meade, Gloucestershire; Mr H.C. Smith, Middlesex; Mr A. Hitchcock, Warrington; Mr J. Hanney, Coventry



ART IN ROMANIA

Coming into the sunlight

Long-hidden works of art are on show again in Bucharest

If you can liken works of art to the prisoners in *Fidelio*, precious Romanian works are now emerging from the shadows, after years of political imprisonment in attics and cellars or under floorboards. Their liberator is Dan Nasta, vice president of the Romanian Society of Art Collectors, who has just put on display a remarkable collection of survivors in the Museum of Art Collections, in Calea Victoriei, Bucharest. Every piece — whether icon, painting, sculpture or carpet — proudly declared itself as testimony to the rich culture that was once Romania.

Mr Nasta has used two large rooms to display the works — all of them privately owned and personally lent for the occasion. His own contributions have an added poignancy. In his home in Strada Rosemarie, the rooms of which are crammed with every kind of beautiful object reflecting a lifetime's obsession with collecting, he lived through part of the Ceausescu era. He describes five years of hell, as the bulldozers making space

for Ceausescu's palace came ever closer to his house. Many of his neighbours, sometimes given an hour or two's notice, had their homes demolished. Today it seems like a miracle that his house — with only one other left beside it — still stands, directly facing the huge Boulevard of Socialism.

The first room of the exhibition contains paintings from the two great periods of Romanian art: that of the late 19th century, which produced painters such as Lucian Blaga and Stephan Lucian; and that of the inter-war period, made noteworthy by such artists as George Petrescu and Theodor Pallady. Across the garden, a

second room contains entrancing paintings and objects *d'art* from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. These works, which clearly reveal the Turkish, German and Greek influences on Romanian culture, include silver teapots and plates, carpets, china and icons on glass. It was these latter which gave an especially Romanian flavour to the exhibition. Such works used to be painted by peasants all over the country; the technique is probably Byzantine in origin. Nature is stylised in them and figures depicted with a charming naivety, but to me their particular beauty lies in their colour. Tones are selected and harmonised with an unerring

instinct: the colour scheme is never strident when the tones are crude, nor dull when the colouring is subdued. Astonishingly subtle harmonies are created when the artist, usually anonymous, alternates warm hues with cold ones, placing green next to red, and orange against blue.

The lunch-time opening was a moment of nostalgia and silent drama. Collectors, relatives of the artists, and owners were all present. And mingled with these honoured guests, many of whom wore beautiful black hats with the hint of a veil, or faded velvet jackets, were some of the up-and-thrusting National Salvation Front ministers — the sons of the very men and women who had helped to destroy Romania's culture. But the human survivors, and the artistic treasures they had guarded and preserved and which are now proudly poised on the walls, bore witness to the past without making any accusation.

JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME

FURNITURE IN SPAIN

Dali's high-heeled chair

STANDING in a barren landscape and overlooked by a snarling dog's head, the sinuous chair in Salvador Dali's *Woman with Rose Head* is not the kind you would automatically sit in.

With its three bony golden legs squeezed into tiny high-heeled shoes and a backrest apparently inspired by a dissected human arm, the chair does not create a feeling of relaxation or peace.

But the inhumanity of this two-dimensional chair and other Dali objects has not worried the Barcelona designers of a new furniture range

based on the eccentric Catalan artist's work. Reproduced in three dimensions and cast in brass, the so-called Leda chair and an accompanying low table maintain the tortured look of the original.

"A Dali chair is not a comfortable chair," explains Robert Descharmes of the design team. "He himself used to say: 'A chair can have many uses, though not necessarily that of being sat on.'"

The chair is one of seven pieces in the Dali collection produced by the BD Design Company and now on sale

at its Barcelona shop. Descharmes and the other main promoter of the idea, architect and designer Oscar Tusquets, are no newcomers to Dali's world. The former was the painter's secretary and confidant for more than 40 years and heads the Demart Pro Arte Company formed to protect his copyright. The latter worked with Dali on the piece of furniture he is perhaps best known for, the red-lipped Salvasofa housed in the Mae West room of the artist's Figueras Museum.

According to Descharmes, Dali would have liked to

design and produce more furniture but the furious creative pace he set meant most of his projects remained unfinished.

Thus the other five pieces in the collection are all based on Dali drawings for Parisian furniture maker Jean-Michel Frank in the 1930s which never made it past the painter's sketchpad.

BD reports that the furniture, priced between £400 and £5,000 a piece, is selling well — especially to the Dali-obsessed Japanese.

GILES TREMLETT

● **PARIS:** An important cultural link between France and Czechoslovakia, Joseph Sima came to Paris in 1921, when he was 30, and quickly integrated himself into the Ecole de Paris, especially the Surrealist group. He was important in the circle of the avant-garde magazine *Le Grand Jeu* (subject of a side exhibition) and during his career went through almost every available style from Realism to Cubism to Geometrical Abstraction.

● **PARIS:** The Comédie Française's most recent production is of Lermontov's *Boz Masque*, directed by Anatoli Vasiliev, one of Russia's most controversial directors. The drama tells the tragedy of a man who murders the wife he adores because he suspects her of infidelity.

Comédie Française, 1 place Colette. Tel: (010 331) 40150015. Until July 30.

● **VENICE:** *Leonardo and Venice* is a two-part exhibition on da Vinci built around 16 important drawings from the Accademia collection, bequeathed to it by the connoisseur Giuseppe Bossi in 1822. The first half brings together these with other da Vincis from European collections on related themes, while the second takes a scholarly look at the effect da Vinci and his followers had on Venetian art.

Palazzo Grassi, Grand Canal. Tel: (010 3941) 5231680. Until July 5.

● **BRUSSELS:** The Théâtre de la Monnaie stages Borlino's grandiose masterpiece, *Les Troyens*, in a new production conducted by Sylvain Cambreling and directed by Peter Mussbach. The rising French soprano Françoise Pollet is Cassandra.

Théâtre de la Monnaie, rue Leopold 4, Brussels 1000. Tel: (010 322) 2181211/02. June 19, 21, 24, 27, 30.

● **GRANADA:** The International Festival of Music and Dance brings performances by Los Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Ballet Lirico Nacional, the Kirov Orchestra, Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, the Academy of Ancient Music under Christopher Hogwood, and the Orchestra of Schleswig-Holstein under Lorin Maazel.

Centro Cultural Gran Capitán. Tel: (010 34 58) 206847. June 19-July 5.

● **AIN-EN-PROVENCE:** The lavender-scented Festival International d'Art Lyrique et de Musique held in the heart of Provence, offers opera in the open-air courtyard of the Archbishop's Palace and recitals in the oleander-filled Romanesque cloister of the Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur. This year sees *Don Giovanni*, with the Swedish soprano Hillevi Martinpelto and the English Chamber Orchestra; Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*; and an all-British Britten *Midsummer Night's Dream*, with cast including James Bowman and Lillian Watson.

Bureau du Festival, place de l'ancien Archevêché, F-13100 Aix. Tel: (010 33) 42173434, fax 42961261. July 13-31.

Cries and statistics

INDUCING labour in pregnant women who have gone past their delivery dates can reduce the rate of Caesarean operations but does not have an impact on infant mortality,

AN ARTIFICIAL heart implanted in a calf has kept the animal alive for the past two and a half months, researchers from the Pennsylvania State Medical Centre in Hershey have announced. The prototype heart, made of plastic and metal, is controlled from outside the calf's body. Coils mounted on the skin are fed with electrical power, creating a magnetic field which passes through the skin and incites a matching current on a coil inside the animal, which in turn powers the heart. Artificial hearts of this type, of which several designs have been produced by different groups, could be used to help thousands of heart disease patients.

Mitochondrial DNA can also survive for thousands of years in well-preserved tissues, such as bone, making it possible to obtain samples of Dark Age mitochondrial DNA from burial sites dating back to the fifth century. Analysing these samples is a long process, however, since decoding each one is the equivalent of unravelling a 400-letter word. The result can then be compared with the mitochondrial DNA obtained from the Welsh and north German children.

"If the Dark Age samples resemble the German ones," Dr Sykes says, "it is likely that large numbers of Saxons landed, killing or driving out the native people. If this is the case, then the English are largely Germanic in origin. But if



Initial analysis has revealed that 90 per cent of the islanders have almost identical mitochondrial DNA, leading the Oxford scientists to conclude that only a few people first settled on the islands.

In Britain, about 12 deaths have been attributed to the use of Ecstasy. One study of 80 people in London reported 40 per cent feeling paranoia, depression and irritability after use.

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The lazy way to help save energy

The word "Rio" is likely to have sent readers into pastures new these past weeks, but few can have failed to feel a twinge of conscience as they turn the page. The almost endless lists of suggestions for helping the environment involve daily reflexes: recycle bottles, re-use envelopes, resist driving.

Lazy environmentalists, however, would do better with one-off structural changes to their houses. Once done, half the energy-saving battle is won.

The National Energy Foundation is a charity dedicated to making homes more energy-efficient. Chaired by Dr Mary Archer, and with 12 trustees, its chief weapon is its National Home Energy Rating scale. Houses are graded from nought to ten for energy efficiency. Whereas houses being built now in Milton Keynes' energy park, created in 1986 to experiment with energy efficiency and housing, would score at least nine, the average semi-detached house in Britain scores 4.3.

The foundation has more than 200 assessors who will look at your home for between £50 and £150, depending on its size, and suggest changes. It took an hour and a half to rate my two-bedroom flat in Notting Hill in West London with the help of a portable computer and a tape to measure windows and rooms. The score was 5.7. However, with improvements, the rating would rise to 8.6. "That's way

One-off structural changes to your house are less effort than daily energy-saving.

Rachel Kelly learns the easy way

above average," said the foundation's Dr Neil Cutland. "Why, it's nearly Milton Keynes standard."

Despite the warm glow I felt from such praise, ratings like examination results, are meaningless in the abstract. More useful is the carefully costed breakdown of the foundation's recommended changes. The first was to insulate the brick walls of the late-Victorian terrace house. Its solid construction means that there is no cavity to be filled. Instead, wooden battens would be needed to create an inner cavity to be filled with 50mm-thick fibre and made into an inner wall, a process known as "dry lining", which would shrink the room by several inches.

"Having it done is also a tremendous hassle, and would cost £800," Dr Cutland said. But it would mean annual savings of £65.

Draught-proofing would be less traumatic and a snap at £5. Sealing all the doors and windows with brush seals bought from a do-it-yourself shop would save £5 a year

in heating. Though Dr Cutland approved of my boiler, a "combi" which heats water both for radiators and bath and has no hot water tank, he suggested a condensing boiler. "It is the most efficient gas boiler you can buy," he said.

The cost would be £550 and it would save £45 a year on bills. Dr Cutland's advice was to buy one only when the boiler needed replacing, thereby cutting the premium.

Dr Cutland described the heating controls as poor. The radiators needed thermostatic radiator valves, known to the trade as TRVs. They are the numbered knobs that control radiator heat and adjust to sunny weather to prevent overheating, for example.

The computer estimated the cost at £180, but Dr Cutland suggested that a plumber's quote could be cheaper.

Finally, Dr Cutland recommended low-energy lights. These compact fluorescent bulbs cut carbon dioxide emissions, as do other measures, and can be bought from

supermarkets. They would cost £85 to install and save me £11 a year on bills.

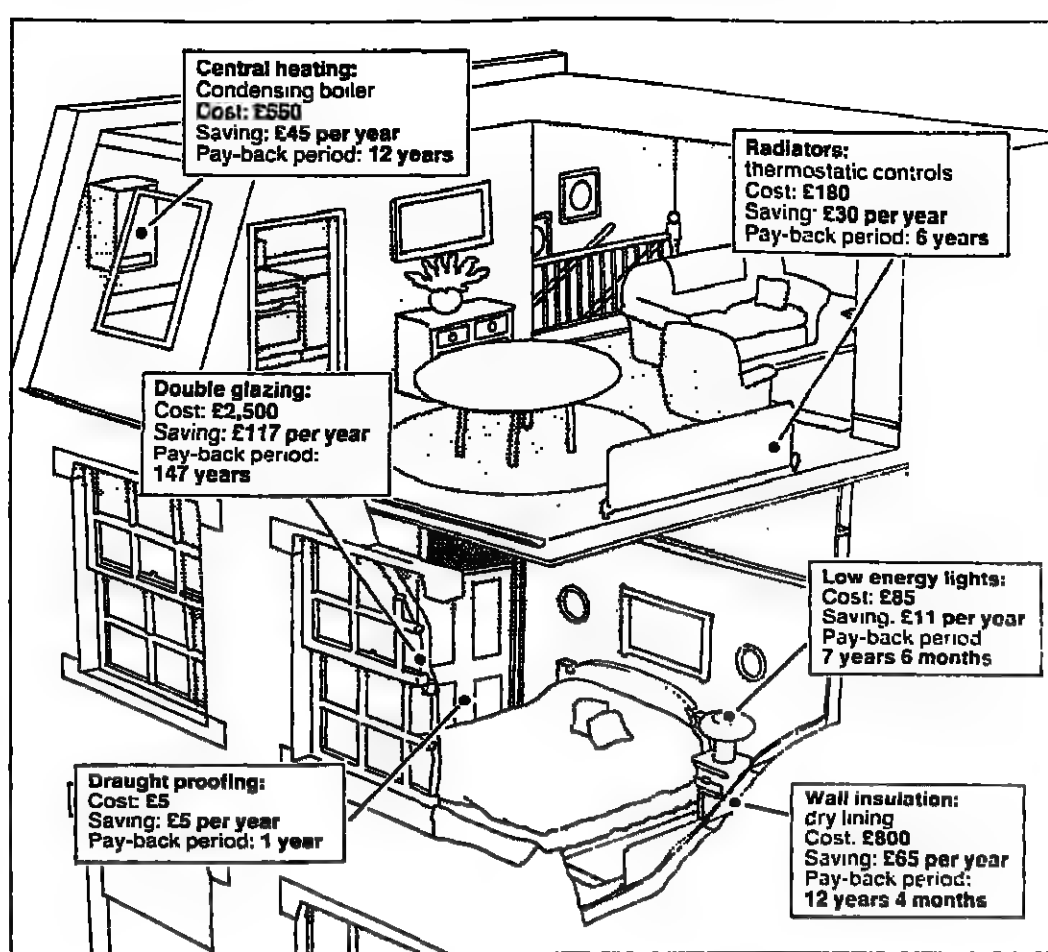
There was nothing to be done about the roof, a flat top to a mansard extension. Only £20 worth of heat escaped yearly, and it would be impossible to put in more loft space. Homeowners with lofts can save perhaps a quarter of their home fuel bills with the help of 6in insulation.

The one glaring omission from the suggested changes is double glazing, often cited (usually by double-glazing salesmen) as essential to home energy conservation. While not denying its impact in an ideal world, its price is often prohibitive.

The computer estimated that it would cost me £2,500 to install, and would save me £117 a year in fuel bills. The pay-back period was a mere 147 years. Better and cheaper is to seal backing to curtains, and draught-proof windows and doors.

Saving water has become almost as fashionable as saving energy. Again, a few permanent changes can improve your record. A brick in the cistern, for example, can save two-thirds of the water every time you flush the lavatory, which normally uses 9.5 litres. A water butt in the garden can collect rain water for the garden and cleaning the car.

Doubtless, once such permanent changes are in place, the everyday reflexes will follow.



An energy-sensitive urban maisonette: this would have a National Home Energy Rating of 8.6

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Inflating the maintenance costs

Companies that cut down on their building maintenance today in order to reduce operating costs could be storing up a legacy of high costs for tomorrow, the property consultant Savills warns in a report on office occupational costs in central London.

To avoid this added expense, Savills emphasises the need to focus on the most efficient buildings. Nick Lahey-Bean, a director of Savills Commercial, says: "With some 34 million square feet on the market in London today and total take-up in 1991 standing at a mere 5.1 million square feet, the results of our 1992 survey should not be ignored by those investors, owner-occupiers and tenants who wish to achieve optimum efficiency from their buildings and support services."

The survey was last carried out in 1987 when the market was booming, and the maintenance costs of buildings were not considered an essential part of rental negotiations. Then the cost of about £5 a sq ft for maintenance was a small proportion of total costs when the rent was up to £60 a sq ft. Now £5 is a more significant sum as rents have fallen to £25-£30 a sq ft.

Overall, the occupational costs of offices have fallen since

Putting off essential repairs will only mean higher bills in the future,

Christopher Warman says

1987. The median cost then of £4.35 a sq ft has increased to £5.44, up by 25 per cent but 5 per cent less than the rate of inflation. But the average hides wide variation.

The survey shows that buildings up to 50,000 sq ft have seen an increase of 79 per cent during the five years, more than double the rate of inflation, which makes them more expensive to run than buildings of 50,000-100,000 sq ft and almost the same as buildings of 150,000 sq ft and over.

Costs for the largest category (more than 150,000 sq ft), which were double those of the smallest (0-50,000 sq ft), have fallen by 13 per cent during the period, and are now about the same. The report suggests that this change is the result of economies of scale, the bargaining power of property managers to make good deals with contractors, and greater efficiency from advances in building technology and design during the latter half of the 1980s.

Air-conditioned buildings cost twice as much to run as non air-conditioned buildings,

but buildings with air-conditioning added later are very inefficient compared with those buildings where it is installed at the start. This leaves a question mark over the role of older buildings.

In a separate survey, Savills Commercial found that 81 per cent of 43 facilities managers questioned said they were under pressure to reduce occupational costs, and would do this through tougher negotiations with suppliers. Nearly half (48 per cent) said they were cutting out non-essential maintenance, and 64 per cent believed that by cutting costs now they were building up cost for the future.

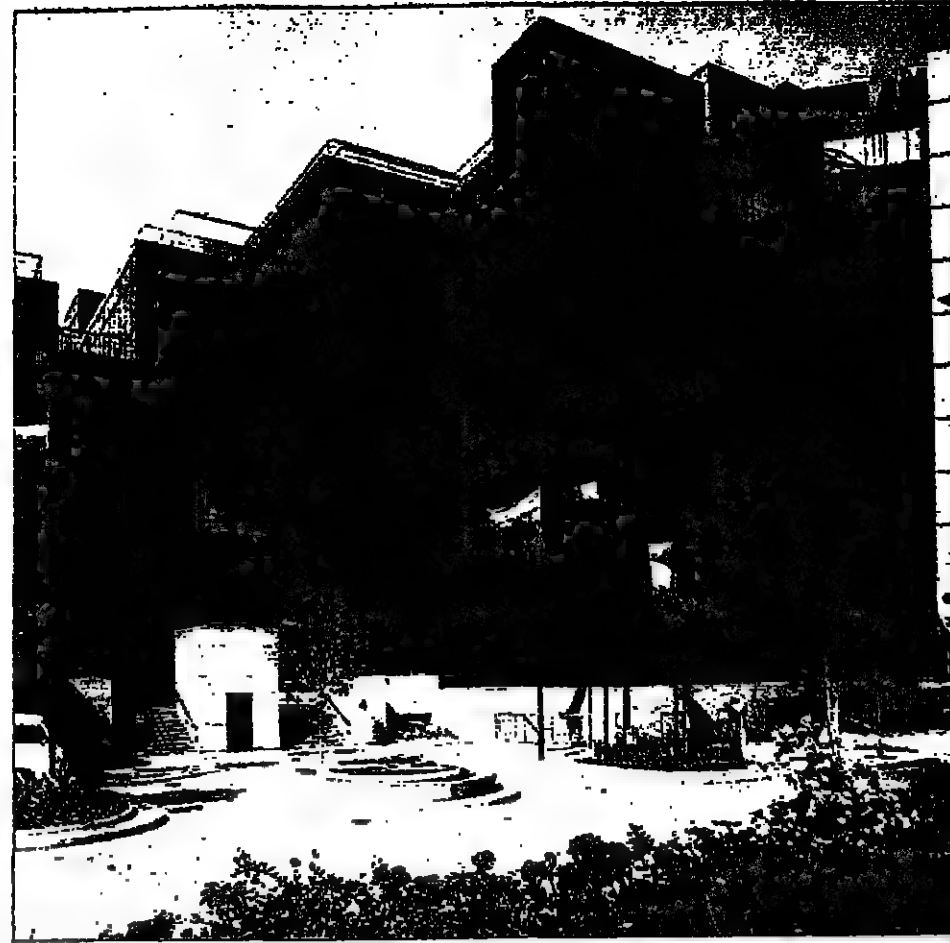
The role of property in British non-property companies comes under examination in a report by Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, which asserts that they attach very little importance to their property. The results of the research indicate that more than 75 per cent of large organisations are unable fully to assess their property in cost-effective terms. Despite the high volume of property held by com-

mercial and industrial companies (£225 billion compared with £60 billion held by the institutions), only 0.2 per cent of employees were directly engaged in real estate work and only 10 per cent of companies employed a property director.

Peter Evans, research director, said that property appeared to be viewed as an incidental, with very few companies adopting a pro-active strategy, yet property often represented more than 50 per cent of all tangible assets of a non-property company. "It is vital that property be considered as a lubricant for the business, rather than a constraint," he added.

The report says that 5 per cent of the commercial floor-space held by the companies is under-used and surplus to requirements, a figure likely to increase as companies seek to reduce capacity. Few companies, however, have incentives or penalties to ensure an efficient use of space.

Debenham Tewson concludes that a key management objective should be to ensure that the company's property meets the changing needs of the core business. Cost efficiency should provide the parameters for both strategic and tactical decisions concerning operational property.



Cost efficient 4 Harbour Exchange on the Isle of Dogs. 65 per cent let, is available at £12 a sq ft through Savills Commercial on behalf of Citibank NA. Harbour Exchange is one of the options being considered by the environment department

MARKET MOVES

Partners in success

PARTNERSHIP projects by the Welsh Development Agency and private sector developers will reach record levels in the next year and will, for the first time, create more industrial and commercial space than the agency's own publicly funded building programme.

Announcing the development programme for 1992-93 this week, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said that about 900,000 sq ft is planned through public-private partnerships, 100,000 sq ft more than in 1991-92.

Bovis coup

BOVIS GmbH, the wholly owned German subsidiary of the P&O company Bovis International, in a joint venture with Lahmeyer International, has won a \$360 million project management contract for the construction of the Commerzbank Tower in Frankfurt's financial district.

The 54-storey tower, designed by Sir Norman Foster, will be the headquarters of one of Germany's leading banks, for completion in late 1996. This is the company's biggest project yet in Germany.

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Voluntary aided school admission policy lawful

Regina v Governors of Bishop Challoner Roman Catholic Comprehensive Girls' School and Another, Ex parte C

Same v Same, Ex parte P

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Browne-Wilkinson
[Speeches June 11]

A voluntary aided school, which was over-subscribed, was entitled to operate an admissions policy intended to preserve the character of the school and thereby exempt itself under section 6(3)(a) of the Education Act 1980 from the duty under section 6(2) of the Act to give effect to parental preference.

It was open to the school appeal committee to decide a parent's appeal on the ground that, there being over-subscription which would prejudice efficient education if all were admitted, to uphold reasonable criteria for selection among the applicants for a limited number of places was a just way to determine the appeal.

The House of Lords so held dismissing appeals by the applicants, C and P, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice McEwan) (The Times November 7, 1991; [1991] 90 LGR 103) which had allowed appeals by The Bishop Challoner Roman Catholic Comprehensive Girls' School and the appeal committee of the school (The Times August 6, 1991) who had allowed the applicants' motions for

judicial review of the school governors' decision to refuse places for the applicants' daughters because they did not meet any of the admission criteria and of the dismissal of their appeals by the school appeal committee.

Mr John Howell for the applicants Mr Bruce Coles, QC and Mr Andrew E. C. Thompson for the school and its appeal committee.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the case raised the important question whether the governors of a voluntary aided school which was over-subscribed, were entitled to operate an admissions policy which gave preference to children of a particular religious persuasion notwithstanding the statutory provisions which gave parents a right to send their children to the school of their choice.

Section 6 of the Education Act 1980, as amended by section 30 of the Education Reform Act 1988, contained provisions imposing the duty to give effect to parental preference.

Section 6(1) required the local education authority to make arrangements enabling parents to express a preference as to the school which their child was to attend.

Section 6(2) imposed a duty on the local education authority and the governors of a voluntary aided school to comply with such preference.

But subsection (3) then provided, *inter alia*, that duty imposed by subsection (2) above does not apply (a) if compliance with the

preference would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

In the present case, the school had adopted an admission policy under which it admitted pupils "in accordance with the following criteria in order of priority: Baptised Catholics, 2 Children of baptised Catholic parents, 3 Practising Christians priority will be given to those with sisters at the school, 4 Other Christians; priority will be given to those with sisters at the school."

In the year starting September 1991 the school had more applicants for admission than it could accommodate without prejudicing the provision of efficient education.

The applicants were parents of two girls, one a Muslim and the other a Hindu. In November 1990 each of the applicants expressed a preference that their daughter should be educated at the school.

Their applications were refused on the ground that they did not meet the admission criteria. Both appealed to the appeal committee established under Schedule 2 to the 1980 Act. On June 6, 1991 both appeals were dismissed.

The main issue on the appeal was the validity of the governors' decisions not to admit the applicants' daughters. The secondary issue, which only arose if the applicants failed on the main issue, was the validity of the decisions of the appeal committee.

Voluntary aided schools were schools maintained wholly or partly by the local education authority. There were approximately 5,000 such schools, virtually all of

which were established by religious foundations. The majority were established by the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church but others were established by, for example, the Methodist Church and the Jewish community.

In 1991, there were 701,000 pupils being educated in Roman Catholic schools of whom only 11.5 per cent were non-Catholics.

The school was established in about 1930 jointly by the Union of the Sisters of Mercy Trustees and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster. The original trust deed could not be traced but more recent trust deeds provided that the trustees were to hold the trust property, comprising the premises of the school and any additional site that might be acquired, for the purposes of a Roman Catholic voluntary aided school to be conducted in accordance with the education acts.

The literal meaning of the words of section 6(1) clearly meant that the subsections disapplied the statutory duty to give effect to parental preference if the case fell within section 6(3)(a), (b) or (c). The present case fell within section 6(3)(a). The school was so over-subscribed that it could not admit all the applicants without prejudicing the provision of efficient education.

Moreover, since under section 6(4) all those who had applied for admission to the school had expressed a statutory preference for an education at the school, it was possible that her conduct could give rise to a legitimate inference that she had participated in the decision-making process of the justices and

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ing of the words used, the applicants failed. There was no duty on the school to give effect to the applicants' preferences that their daughters should be educated at the school.

In their letters dismissing the applicants' appeals the appeal committee stated, *inter alia*, "to put any more pressure on a year intake that was up to its capacity would be beyond the school's resources and detrimental to its ability to provide an efficient education". They added that the girls did not meet the admission criteria and thus the committee were unable to override section 6(3)(a).

The letters fell far short of disclosing an error of law. The committee had held that the case fell within section 6(3)(a) because admission would prejudice efficient education.

They expressly referred to the right of an over-subscribed school to adopt reasonable criteria for selection, the criteria had been published in this case, and that they were required to take such criteria into account.

It was open to the committee to decide the appeal on the grounds that, there being over-subscription which would prejudice efficient education if all were admitted, to uphold the reasonable criteria for selection among all the applicants for a limited number of places was a just way to determine the appeal.

The committee were also saying that since the girls did not meet the criteria they felt unable to override the statutory provisions in section 6(3)(a), that is, they felt that there was not sufficient to justify them requiring an over-subscribed school to accept them contrary to their admission policy.

LORD KEITH, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner and Lord Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Elaine Sherratt, Tower Hamlets, Ellis Wood.

Clerk's conduct

Regina v Eccles Justices, Ex parte Farrelly

Where a justices clerk spoke to the justices after they had returned from their deliberations and were about to deliver a verdict and then went with them when they retired for a second time to reconsider, in both instances without giving an explanation, there was the possibility that her conduct could give rise to a legitimate inference that she had participated in the decision-making process of the justices and

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Challenges to regulatory discipline

Regina v Life Assurance Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, Ex parte Ross

Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice McEwan
[Judgment June 11]

Where a statutory regulatory organisation had to exercise decision-making powers such as those of serving an intervention notice prohibiting a member from conducting relevant investment business without giving that member the opportunity to make representations beforehand, the procedures should provide that those who might otherwise expect to have been allowed to make representations were at least to be allowed to make immediate application to set the decision aside after the notice had been served and to appeal against it.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing the appeal of David Hugh Ross, finance director and a shareholder in the Winchester Group plc, an appointed representative of Norwich Union, a member of and subject to control under the rules of the Life Assurance Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro), from the refusal by the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Hilden) (The Times July

22, 1991) to grant him his application for judicial review of the decision by Lautro to exercise its intervention powers under rule 7.3 of the Lautro Rules 1988.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Miss Christie Booth for Mr Ross; Mr Michael Belfort, QC and Mr Richard Gordon for Lautro.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that at the relevant time Lautro's rules and procedure were defective in not giving a right of appeal against a notice served on a person or a body in the position of Winchester, or a right to have the decision to serve it rescinded.

That position had been amended in February 1992 by Lautro Rules 7.28 and 7.3(12).

In any event, Lautro were not required by law to afford to Winchester the opportunity to make representations as to why an intervention notice should not be served before deciding whether or not to serve such a notice.

There had been no unfairness caused to the member which would have invalidated the notice.

LORD JUSTICE STOCKER and **LORD JUSTICE MCEWAN** agreed.

Solicitors: Mander & Co, Slaughter & May.

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BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax (79814) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (42022543)
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series about two long-lost cousins (r) (6203746) 9.30 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Pepin prepares beef carpaccio, followed by catfish on ratatouille and concluding with hazelnut parfait with candied violets (77659)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (9875562) 11.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (4274340) 10.25 Stopgap and Tidypup. Animation narrated by Terry Wogan (r) (6054949) 10.35 Beautywise. Advice on looking good from Liz Earle and Karen Kizianovich (r) (4324494)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (9875562) 11.05 Travel Show. What southern Florida has to offer the tourist (r) (5643235) 11.35 Major Dad. American family comedy (r) (4694388)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (792456) 12.05 Summer Scene. Magazine series presented live from the National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale. Today's guests include Andrew Morton, author of the controversial book *Diana: The True Story*, and Mitzi Wilson, editor of the BBC Good Food Magazine (8459746) 12.55 Regional News and weather (50859920)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Cee-fax) Weather (25920) 1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) (5962543)
1.50 Royal Ascot. On the second day of the festival meeting Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05, 3.45 and, on BBC2, 4.20 races (s) (59241611)
3.50 Henry's Cat. Cartoon series narrated by Bob Godfrey (r) (4795017) 4.00 WildBrain. Janice Aquah and Mark Evans investigate animals' ability to learn. Last in the series (s) (8629825) 4.15 Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Animation (r) (s) (2773104) 4.35 The Movie Game. Film and video quiz presented by Jonathan Morris. (Cee-fax) (s) (4328630)
5.00 Newsround (6733727) 5.10 Clowndom Around. Episode four of the eight-part children's drama from Australia. (Cee-fax) (s) (9362630)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (724949) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Cee-fax) (592)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (562). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 European Football Championship. Live coverage of England's final group match, against the host nation Sweden in Stockholm, introduced by Desmond Lynam with Jimmy Hill and Terry Venables. Plus highlights of the game in Malmö between Denmark and France. The commentators are John Motson and Barry Davies (411185)
9.30 Main News with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (51611)



Youth abused: a victim is interviewed by police (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Inside Story: Evidence of Abuse.
CHOICE: In what is claimed as a television first, the cameras follow a child abuse case from the initial accusations to the verdict of the court. An eight-year-old girl claims that her father sexually abused her and her brother. The case is handled by a specialist unit of Humberside in which police officers work in tandem with social workers. The message of Paul Bennett's impressive fly-on-the-wall documentary is the difficulty of obtaining evidence and making it stick. There are generally no witnesses to abuse, medical testimony can be disputed and courts are reluctant to accept the word of the child without corroboration. As a result any benefit of the doubt tends to go to the alleged abuser. The film offers a step-by-step guide to the pitfalls which lie in wait for even the most thorough and sensitive police investigation. (Cee-fax) (s) (712524)
10.30 Film: Class (1983) starring Ron Lowe, Andrew McCarthy and Jacqueline Bisset. A satirical comedy about a shy young college student who unwittingly has an affair with his room-mate's mother. Directed by Lewis John Carlo. (Cee-fax) (3306814). Northern Ireland: The Lady Elizabeth 11.20 Film: Major League
12.25am Royal Ascot. Highlights from the second day of the festival's racing (s) (5136789). Northern Ireland: 12.55-1.15 Royal Ascot
12.45 Weather (1215963)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Roman Architecture and Town Planning (9171901). Ends at 7.10
8.00 BBC Breakfast News (1114746)
8.15 Westminster (6059882)
9.00 The History Man. Bryan McNeely investigates the invasion of the Essex coast (r) (1512630)
9.05 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather (96336758) followed by You and Me (r) (86881730) 2.15 The Sky is Night. Patrick Moore is joined by the Astronomer Royal, Professor Arnold Wolfendale, to discuss the latest data received from the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite (r) (42731794) 2.35 Country File. Rural issues examined by John Craven (r) (7409185)
3.00 News and weather (9947748) followed by Westminster Live, introduced by Vivian White (7622017) 3.40 News, regional news and weather (4797475)
3.50 Royal Ascot continued from BBC1. Live coverage of the Royal Hunt Cup (4.20). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lintley and John Hanner (s) (1357388)
4.35 Seaside City. An RSPB film about the gulls who have forsaken the crowded coastal shores for the city life (r) (4326272)
5.00 Horizon: Genes & R. A documentary look at nine months in the lives of a group of young scientists at Manchester University (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (4253)
6.00 Film: Jubal (1956) starring Glenn Ford, Valerie French and Ernest Borgnine. Superior western about a drifter who is given a job by a friendly rancher whose wife takes a shine to the newcomer setting a chain reaction of jealousy, hate and violence. Directed by Delmer Daves (5341213)
7.40 Birdwatch. Black Gold. The third of six films on culture and identity from a variety of black perspectives. Rebel MC, Shiraz Paul and Shani Ahmed, founder of the Joe Bloggs jeans company, explore black attitudes to wealth and ask whether black businesses benefit their own communities. (Cee-fax) (105611)



Infiltration: examining the machinations of Gladio (8.10pm)

- 8.10 Timewatch: Gladio.
CHOICE: The second of three documentaries about far right infiltration of Western intelligence is only marginally more comprehensible than the first. There is a good story here but it needs to be told more coherently. Part of the trouble is the elusiveness of the subject. Gladio was a nebulous organisation which defies neat definition and television needs clear, simple ideas. But the film is hopeless on chronology and needs a much fuller commentary. The focus is on the series of bomb outrages in Italy, culminating in the explosion at Bologna railway station which left 86 dead. Gladio's object was to throw the blame on the extremist left, so as to increase popular demands for a more authoritarian government. That much is clear but viewers are advised to equip themselves with a cool head and a rewind button. (Cee-fax) (629814)
9.00 MPA-SPH. More black humour from the front line Korean war medic. When BJ announces that he will play a practical joke on each of the rest of the team by dawn the next day Hawkeye becomes a nervous wreck waiting for BJ to pounce (r) (58524)
9.25 The Green Man. Episode two of Malcolm Bradbury's three-part adaptation of Kingsley Amis's ghost story starring Alfin Fenn as an Oxford lecturer and restaurateur with money, drink and, latterly, a 17th-century ghost problem (r). (Cee-fax) (550185)
10.15 Teaching English. Archibald Fraser explains the way he teaches his class that is buried in the landscape. (Cee-fax) (560727)
10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman (211982)
11.15 The Late Show. Tonight's edition of the arts and media magazine is devoted to rock star Bruce Springsteen (942727)
11.55 Weather (922663)
12.00 Open University: *Serjeant Musgrave at the Court* (76944). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (1633123)
9.25 Cross Wins. Crossword quiz game presented by Tom O'Connor (6292630) 9.55 Thames News (1292777)
10.00 Out of this World. American comedy series about a teenage girl with an alien father and a human mother (r) (609358)
10.30 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes advice on making the most of the National Health Service, family law and the demystification of modern technology. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 (48185272)
12.10 Allsorts. Children's entertainment (r) (s) (9666433)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Rusler. (Oracle) (6315475) 1.10 Thames News (62843814)
1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (1891559) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in a small Australian outback town (8997814)
2.20 Graham Kerr. The chef cook up Bangkok steamed trout (9767746) 2.50 Take the High Road. Drama series set in the Highlands (7417104)
3.15 ITN News headlines (9957123) 3.20 Thames News headlines (9954036) 3.25 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in a large Australian city hospital (3841369)
3.55 Garfield and Friends. Animation (9107291) 4.20 Follow Your Nose. Young people test their physical and mental skills at the Lightwave Valley Theme Park, north Yorkshire (4292765) 4.50 Scooby Doo. Animation (4263185)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holman (2546366)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (964630)
5.55 Thames Help (r) (287369)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (678)
6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (630)



Hospital drama: student doctor Joanne Waller (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Jimmy's. The first of a new series of real-life dramas from St James's University hospital in Leeds (s) (5098)
7.30 Coronation Street. The distressed Emily Bishop goes missing. (Oracle) (814)
8.00 Survival Special: Giant Otter. A documentary about the largest, loudest and rarest of the world's otters, found only in remote South American jungles (r). (Oracle) (8543)
9.00 Film: All the Right Moves (1983) starring Tom Cruise as a high school football player who, with his girlfriend (Lee Thompson), dreams of leaving the depressed and isolated Pennsylvania steel town where they live. His only hope depends on him winning a football scholarship, her fate lies in her musical talents. Directed by Michael Chapman. Continues after the news (8307)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Nicholas Owen. (Oracle) Weather (50494) 10.30 Thames News (891340)
10.40 Film: All the Right Moves continued (590524)
11.20 European Football Championship. Highlights of tonight's games between Sweden and England in Stockholm and France and Denmark in Malmö (825356)
12.30am Film: The True Story of Jesse James (1956) starring Robert Wagner and Jeffrey Hunter. Director Nicholas Ray injects vitality into this unimpressive remake of the western legend. With good supporting acting from Agnes Moorehead as the brothers' mother and Hope Lange as Jesse's wife (344215)
2.15 Hollywood Report. Title battle from Tinseltown (53673)
2.45 America's Top Ten (s) (52944)
3.15 Videochoice. The latest from French designers (2408654)
3.40 Quiz Night. Pub and club quiz competition (2124505)
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music from Nashville (r) (s) (33041505)
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newscasts (58418012)
5.00 The Company. American comedy series (97166)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nielson (71499). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (1631765)
9.25 Schools (84858272)
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (57307)
12.30 Business Daily. News and analysis from the world's financial centres (64185)
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is singer Randy Travis (r) (52340)
2.00 Film: The Big Lift (1950, b/w) starring Montgomery Clift and Paul Douglas. Factual drama about the Berlin air lift, organised to defeat the Soviet blockade of the city. Directed by George Seaton (31943833)
4.10 Joe Brown at Clapham (b/w). The singer tells the story of his time from Stephenson's Rocket to today's high-speed trains using old prints and rare archive film (r) (12767543)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving quiz about general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (727)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are widowed parents who started to date new partners before their families felt they had finished mourning their spouse (5926524)
5.55 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (278611)
6.00 Kate and Allie. Comedy series starring Susan St James and Jane Curtin as Greenwich Village divorcees. (Teletext) (920)
6.30 The Best of the World. Featuring Flavor Flav, lead singer of Public Enemy, and boxer Chris Eubank (s) (272)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (322982)
7.50 Party Political Comment from a Conservative party politician
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (2388)
8.30 Check Out '92. Carole Peters investigates whether our occupational pensions are safe (4123)
9.00 Dispatches. On the 20th anniversary of the Watergate break-in, new evidence about the events that led to the scandal (575494)
9.45 Short and Curly: Out of Town, by Neil Clarke. David Morrissey stars as a young man on a country road who walks into a nightmare (r) (940727)
10.00 The Golden Girls. More comedy from the four Miami matrons (r). (Teletext) (58036)



Meaty adventures: Bob Mortimer and Vic Reeves (10.30pm)

- 10.30 Bunch of Five: The Weekenders.
CHOICE: The news that Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer lead tonight's comedy plot is a good indication of what to expect and admirers of their lunatic, surreal humour will not be disappointed. You can hardly call it a sitcom, despite a Goon Show plot about two chums in search of the perfect sausage pursued by a trio of aliens who want the meat for themselves. The narrative flow is staccato, to say the least, and the individual gags are the thing. They come so fast that you often need a re-wind to catch them and if many have no reason to be there, the very darkness of the enterprise is part of its appeal. Reeves is someone who either drives you to hysterics or makes you switch off. But if you like the notion of an Alan Ladd Memorial Heel Bar, this is the show for you (34456)
11.00 4-Play: 'Tch. Alexei Sayle stars as a hitchhiker stranded on a roundabout for a year (r) (425140)
12.05am Kazimir Malevich: Breaking Free of the Earth. Barrie Gavin with the story of the Russian artist who died in 1935 while in official disfavour (s) (6442429)
1.05 The Foot Boy. A surreal short set in the seeping compartment of a train where a foot without a body flirts with a girl. Starring Mayla de Pourbaix and Michel Roman (8562418). Ends at 1.20

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SATellite

- SKY ONE
Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
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